

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 14, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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**WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Loving God, who sent Jesus to earth to share our common lot and bring eternal life into our midst, help us to believe and to trust. Show us the light of Your revelation and help us to welcome its presence in the life of this congregation as we gather and when we scatter to our daily activities. May we consciously represent You in all our deeds so that the world may come to a saving knowledge of Your grace.

**OPENING HYMN:** "Just As I Am"

**JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA** (Author: Charlotte Elliott; Tune: WOODWORTH)

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wretched blind,  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind.  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## **BREAKING NEW FROM Miss Dee**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Our time of penitence before God gives us the opportunity to rid ourselves of the weights we carry, the lingering sense that we have not lived up to our full potential, that we have cheated others, that we are disoriented and mired down in troubles of our own making. Let our individual confessions be gathered up in the confessions of the church.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Healing God, we are sick through our sinful ways. We are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. By our self-indulgent habits, we are destroying ourselves and depriving others. We are afraid to embrace the changes that come with the new life You offer. We cry out to You in our trouble. Save us from our distress. Hear our personal confession. ...

### **A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God loved the world so much that Jesus Christ was sent to show us the way to eternal life. We are not condemned but offered saving grace. We are re-created in Jesus Christ that we may do the good that God intends and make that goodness our way of life. Praise God!

**HOLY SCRIPTURES:** John 3:16–21, Ephesians 2:1–10

### **JOHN 3:16–21**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be

exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

## **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

### **Made Alive in Christ**

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**SERMON:** "Created for Greatness"

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom Come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN

**BENEDICTION:** God sent Jesus Christ that the world may believe. Let everyone see the light you have received. Let everyone know God offers to all the gift of eternal life. God sends us into the world to share that good news.

**CLOSING HYMN:** "I Love to Tell the Story"

**I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY OF UNSEEN THINGS ABOVE**

Author: Kate Hankey (1866); Author (refrain): William G. Fischer (1869)

Tune: [I love to tell the story] (Fischer)

- 1)** I love to tell the story of unseen things above:  
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true.  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

- 2)** I love to tell the story. 'Tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy word. **[Refrain]**

- 3)** I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **[Refrain]**

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\*Weekly Announcements: <https://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements>