

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WORDS TO PONDER

How does the church appear to many in our society today?

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Eternal lover of our wayward race,

People: We praise You for Your ever-open door.

Leader: You open Your arms to accept us

People: Even before we turn to meet Your welcome;

Leader: You invite us to forgiveness

People: Even before our hearts are softened to
repentance.

Unison: Hold before us the image of our humanity made
new, that we may live in Jesus Christ, the model, and
the pioneer of Your new creation.

OPENING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (#63 Red)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to God's self,
Therefore, we come, in the name of Jesus Christ, to claim
that healing within and among us. The One who received
sinners and ate with them invites us to feast on God's
forgiving love. Let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have journeyed to far places and lived as if You were not accompanying us. We have tasted the inheritance You entrusted to us and used other people as if they were things. Then we complain to You as if our dilemmas were Your fault rather than our own. O God, we are not worthy to be Your children. Forgive us and grant us just a small place in Your love, which we do not deserve. Hear our personal pleas for Your forgiveness.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Christ we are a new creation, and God does not count our trespasses against us. God gives us the very best and celebrates our return. The new life God grants us enables us to reach out to those we have wronged and those who wrong us. We are reconciled to God and to one another. Live, then, as ambassadors for Christ.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 32, II Corinthians 5:16–21,
Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

SERMON: "Short on Mercy"

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

CLOSING HYMN: "O How I Love Jesus" (#52 NCH)

THE APOSTLES' CREED: #881 Black

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

BENEDICTION