

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

May 2, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Open our sense to Your direction, amazing God, so we may be alert to opportunities You give us. Fill us with good news to share with those who seek meaning for their lives. We are here because we need the good news ourselves. There is much in life that we do not understand. We seek to know Your Word and to be led by it. Recall us to the vows of our baptism, reconfirm in us the covenant promises that link us to You and to one another. As we meet You here, our hearts are lifted up in praise. May our worship glorify Your name and be pleasing to You.

AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

1) Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

[Refrain]

2) Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past;
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected, and poor.

[Refrain]

3) Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see:
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
Love paid the ransom for me. **[Refrain]**

REFRAIN:

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sense the love of God that seeks to live in us. Remember the times you have felt connected to the true vine, Jesus Christ. Listen again to the promise and challenge: "If you abide in me and my word abides in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you ... bear much fruit and become my disciples."

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have ignored our origin in You and denied Your rule over the nations. We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in Your love. We have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies to be hated. We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm us. We hesitate to take the risk of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from our fears and failures to trust Your love and help us live with bold generosity.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There is good news for all who sincerely repent and seek a living, growing relationship with God. Those who are open to the gift of God's love are blessed with the capacity to extend love to others and thus experience the depth and riches of life that God intends for us. When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us. Praise God!

HOLY SCRIPTURES: I John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

I John 4:7-21

God's Love and Ours

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning

sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

JOHN 15:1-8

The Vine and the Branches

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

SERMON: "Connections"

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:

Walk in the light as God's own children, united in love for one another. Be guided by God's word, that you may bear good fruit. The Spirit of Christ sends you on your way rejoicing.

CLOSING HYMN: "I Need Thee Every Hour"

1) I need Thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

2) I need Thee every hour,
Stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power
When Thou art nigh. **[Refrain]**

Refrain:
I need Thee, O, I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

3) I need Thee every hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain. **[Refrain]**

4) I need Thee every hour,
Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
In me fulfill. **[Refrain]**

5) I need Thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son. **[Refrain]**

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, May 2, 2021

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL! We have joined with St. Jacob's Stone UCC to offer Sunday School via Zoom each Sunday at 1:00 PM. There will be a story lesson, a craft and song time every week. For more information, see Miss Dee at worship or have an adult privately message her via Facebook, message Pastor Sager or email the Church office (office@stdavidsucc.com). To join in on Sunday School, right click on the following link (or enter *Zoom.com* in your browser), Click "join a meeting" and then enter the Meeting ID and password as printed here: [ZOOM LINK TO JOIN CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL](#) Meeting ID: 717 212 9122; Password: 547270

CHILDRENS SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Beginning in June, Sunday School for Children will begin. Childrens Sunday School will meet following Pastor Scott's weekly sermon message and will last until the end of the worship service (approximately 20 minutes). Parents are asked to pick up their child/children in the Sunday School wing following worship, whether class is held indoors or outside. Helpers are needed and any Adults or Teens interested in volunteering should contact Dee Hertzog to sign-up.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Currently, our 8:30 AM Worship service is being livestreamed to our YouTube channel. The following link will take you to our church's YouTube channel where you can subscribe to our channel if you wish to do so. By subscribing, you will receive a notification whenever we go live, eliminating the need for you to search for us on YouTube. If you are unable to watch the livestream in real time, you will still be able to watch the recorded video at your convenience. [LINK to St. David's YouTube Channel](#)

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM at the church.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Tuesday, May 4, 7:00 PM.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 PM. We will not be rehearsing any anthems at this time, but instead will be singing and recording the hymn selections for upcoming worship services. Anyone who would like to help record the hymns is welcome at these rehearsals.

MUSIC & WORSHIP: Meeting Thursday, May 6 following Choir, approx. 8:15 PM

FIRESIDE FRIENDS: Saturday, May 8, 10:00 AM. Prayer and Hike at Codorus.

HOMEWOOD BENEVOLENT FUND: Offering Date MAY 9, Mother's Day Offering. Homewood never asks a resident to leave due to financial reasons. The Benevolent Fund Offering helps to fill the gaps in finances. Regardless of income levels, everyone at Homewood is treated with dignity and respect. Your donation will provide continued care for those who need it most. Thank you for your support.

CONSISTORY MEETING: Monday, May 10, 7:00 PM

PIT BEEF AND HAM MAKE-a-WISH FUNDRAISER: The Make-a-Wish Truck Convoy for Wishes is happening today, May 2. Wanda and Todd Bankert will be having a Pit Beef and Ham sale to raise money for Make-a-Wish on Sunday, May 16 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Church Parking Lot.

PENTECOST (CONFIRMATION AND DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION): Due to the arrival of Covid last Spring, Confirmation was postponed. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at the 8:30 AM service, we will officially confirm two (2020) Confirmands into the life and work of St. David's UCC. Drive-thru Communion will follow both Sunday morning worship services.

MENS GROUP: Monday, May 24 at 7:00 PM at the church with masks and social distancing. The 9-week curriculum is entitled "The Discipleship Playbook." Meetings can also be accessed via Uber Conference (717-388-0676).

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study, Tuesdays (Mornings, 9:30 AM; Evenings, 7:30 PM). We will be studying the Book of Revelation. All sessions are in-person in the church Sanctuary with masks and social distancing being practiced. Bible Study will also be available via Uber Conference (717-388-0676) for anyone who does not feel comfortable meeting in person. We look forward to having you join us.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET: Volunteers are needed to help clean the medical equipment that is returned or donated to us. We also need a helper or 2 with a trailer to load up excess items in the church basement and transport them to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Pastor Scott. Thank you.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM: We will be collecting food items for the Summer Lunch Program starting on MAY 4 and continuing each Tuesday at St. David's Lutheran church from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM through July. Store brand foods are fine.

Sizes are suggested to keep the bags of food similar for each family. Distribution will begin in June. [SUMMER LUNCH FOOD ITEMS NEEDED, 2021](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pastor@stdavidsucc.com or psscott8283@comcast.net) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: Items can be dropped off at the donation center on Baltimore Street. Give them our church code #20003 and they will give us \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Thank you for your participation.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (HACC)

PAL DATE: May 22

CLOTHING BANK DATE: No May Date

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL

Single-serve Fruits
Instant White Rice
Scallop Potatoes

Changing Lives Shelter

Deodorant
Body Wash
Razors
Paper Towels
Clorox Wipes
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags

Clothing Bank

Sheet Sets (All Sizes)
Bath Towels
Men's (L & XL) White T-shirts

Ruth's Harvest

Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Vegetables

NEW HOPE NEEDS: Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Peanut Butter, Canned Meats, Personal Care Items. For more info: www.nhm-pa.org

New Hope Career Fair Hanover: May 13, June 10, and July 8.

The Career Fair is from 10:00 AM until Noon at 135 Baltimore Street in Hanover. The event is free and open to the public.