

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

May 9, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Creator of friendships, whose love lifts us from mindless servitude to caring community, we thank You for the guidance of Your commandments and the promise of joy in Jesus Christ. We seek to love as we have been loved, to risk life itself for the sake of our sisters and brothers, and to bear fruit that will last. Grant us the strength and courage we need. AMEN

OUR CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 98

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- ² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
- ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
- ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
- ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,

let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

OPENING HYMN: "CHRIST FOR THE WORLD WE SING"

1) Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With loving zeal:
The poor and them that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sin-sick and sorrow worn,
Whom Christ doth heal.

3) Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With one accord:
With us the work to share,
With us reproach to dare,
With us the cross to bear,
For Christ our Lord.

2) Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With fervent pray'r:
The wayward and the lost,
By restless passions tossed,
Redeemed at countless cost
From dark despair.

4) Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With joyful song:
The newborn souls whose days,
Reclaimed from error's ways,
Inspired with hope and praise,
To Christ belong.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

God judges the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. God knows all that we have done and all that we avoid. God is aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it. We are invited to confess all that God already knows so healing and freedom can be ours in Jesus Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Ever-present God, we confess to You our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments You have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts You entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for You. Cleanse us from our destructive ways, freeing us to love as You have loved us. Hear our silent prayers of personal confession.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we trust God's love, we can celebrate the joy of friendship in Christ. We can dare to show love that is not dependent on others' responses. We can serve without the need for recognition. Praise God!

HOLY SCRIPTURES: 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

I JOHN 5:1-6

Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

JOHN 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

SERMON: “Love, What Life is All About”

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: In Christ, we are no longer servants but friends. We are learning to love as we have been loved. Carry God’s love into the world.

CLOSING HYMN: “THAT GREAT LOVE”

1) Let us in love share that same love,
That Great Love we have received;
Without reason or condition
Let us love as we are loved.
It's the love that gives away all,
It's the friend that lays life down.
Oh how precious to be loved thus!
Spread it 'round, let love abound.

2) Let us love the One who loves us,
That Great Love who loved us first.
No excuses, no evasion,
Let us love our God like this:
Love with passion and abandon
Without pause and without cause
Every last child that is loved by
That great Parent of us all.

3) Let us love all who are loved by
That Great Love who loves us all
No exception, nor omission,
Let us love them one and all.
Love the stranger, love the outcast,
Love the beggar and the thief;
Undeservéd we have been loved,
Let us give as we receive.

4) Let us in love share that same love,
That Great Love we have received;
Without reason or condition
Let us love as we are loved.
It's the love that gives away all,
It's the friend that lays life down.
Oh how precious to be loved thus!
Spread it 'round, let love abound.
