

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020

10:00 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Amazing God, who entrusts to us the management of the earth, help us to appreciate and value the talents You have given us, using them for the benefit of all Your children, that all of us may grow in faith, hope, and love to the end that all will dwell in Your realm of light. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve"

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| (1) Awake, my soul, stretch ev'ry nerve,
And press with vigor on;
A heav'nly race demands your zeal,
And an immortal crown,
And an immortal crown. | (3) 'Tis God's all-animating voice
Still calls you from on high;
'Tis His own hand presents the prize
To your aspiring eye,
To your aspiring eye. |
| (2) A cloud of witnesses around
Holds you in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge your way
And onward urge your way. | (4) Blest Savior, introduced by You,
Have I my race begun;
And, crowned with victry, at your feet
I'll lay my honors down,
I'll lay my honors down. |

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee, Jaguars

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God who loves us also calls us to account. We whose senses are dulled in so many destructive ways have failed to see God in action in our own history. We have placed our trust in silver and gold rather than in God's saving activity. While there is yet some life within us, let us turn away from what has been, to embrace God's exciting new possibilities. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are reluctant to face Your judgment, all-knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents You have entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving faithful service. We seek to escape Your wrath by shrinking from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks

to which You call us. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the day. Help us! Hear our confessions.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ, who died for us. Invest well the talents God has entrusted to You. By God's grace, live as children of the day, who make your vows to God and perform them.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 90:1–12, I Thessalonians 5:1–11, Matthew 25:14–30

PSALM 90:1–12

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
- ⁴ A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:
- ⁶ In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.
- ⁷ We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- ⁹ All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.
- ¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

- ¹¹ If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- ¹² Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–10

The Day of the Lord

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

MATTHEW 25:14–30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

SERMON: Stewards”

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 God, Our Help in Ages Past”

(1) Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

(2) Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

(3) Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

(4) A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

(5) Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

(6) Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come:
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home!

BENEDICTION

To those who have used well the gifts of God, the Sovereign One entrusts great responsibility. Live as children of the day, worthy of trust and dependable in your outreach.

MUSIC NOTES

AWAKE, MY SOUL, STRETCH EVERY NERVE

This words to this hymn were written by Philip Doddridge, born in London, England, June 26, 1702. He was the youngest of 20 children. Eighteen siblings died in infancy and he, himself, was plagued by poor health most of his life. His father was a London oil merchant. His paternal grandfather was an Independent minister who was ejected from his church by the Act of Univormity in 1622 (Acts of Uniformity: Acts set by Parliament establishing legal rules for worship). His maternal grandfather was a Lutheran minister in Prague, Bohemia, who was exiled because of his faith and came to London to escape persecution.

His parents died in 1715 when he was only a young boy. After this he declined an offer from the Duchess of Bedford for a Cambridge or Oxford University education to prepare him for the ministry in the Church of England, and since his family had been Congregationalists he enrolled in a Nonconformist academy at Kibworth. Eventually, he became one of the most influential leaders among the indepedent churches of England.

Doddridge preached his first sermon at twenty and began serving as a minister at Kibworth. In 1729, at the age of 27, he became minister of the Castle Hill Congregational Chapel where he continued for 22 years and also operated a Nonconformist school. In 1730 he married Mercy Marris, and in 1736 the University of Aberdeen conferred upon him the D.D. degree. He was a voluminous writer and authored many theological works, as well as over 400 hymns. Most of his hymns were not published in his lifetime and were circulated only in manuscript, but they were collected and printed after his death.

In 1751, at age 47, Doddridge developed tuberculosis. Some friends sent him on a ship to Lisbon, Portugal, hoping that the warmer climate would provide a cure, but three

weeks after arriving in Lisbon he died therefrom tuberculosis and exhaustion on Oct. 25, 1751.

"Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve" had been produced probably around 1750 to be read as a poem after one of Doddridge's sermons and was first published posthumously four years after Doddridge's death in Job Orton's 1755 Hymns Founded on Various Texts in the Holy Scriptures by the Late Reverend Philip Doddridge, D.D. Sometimes the words are erroneously attributed to Orton. The tune usually used with this text (Christmas; also called Lunenburg, Sandford, and Siroe) was composed by George Frederick Handel (1685–1759). This hymn admonishes us to run the race set before us. (Source: Hymn Studies Blog)

Wherefore seeing we...are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12.1)

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

Isaac Watts (July 7, 1674 – November 25, 1748) was an English Christian minister (Congregational), hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. He is recognized as the "Godfather of English Hymnody. "

In his later years, Isaac Watts once complained about hymn singing in church: "To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion."

He had been bemoaning such since his late teens. His father, tired of his complaints, challenged him to write something better. The following week, the adolescent Isaac presented his first hymn to the church, "Behold the Glories of the Lamb," which received an enthusiastic response. The career of the "Father of English Hymnody" had begun.

At Isaac's birth in 1674, his father was in prison for his Nonconformist sympathies (that is, he would not embrace the established Church of England). His father was eventually freed (and fathered seven more children), but Isaac respected his courage and remembered his mother's tales of nursing her children on the jail steps.

Young Isaac showed genius early. He was learning Latin by age 4, Greek at 9, French (which he took up to converse with his refugee neighbors) at 11, and Hebrew at 13. Several wealthy townspeople offered to pay for his university education at Oxford or Cambridge, which would have led him into Anglican ministry. Isaac refused and at 16 went to London to study at a leading Nonconformist academy. Upon graduation, he spent five years as a private tutor.

In 1702 he became pastor of London's Mark Lane Independent (i.e. Congregational) Chapel, then one of the city's most influential independent churches. But the following year, he began suffering from psychiatric illness that would plague him for the rest of his life. He had to pass off more and more of his work to his assistant and eventually resigned in 1712.

His illness and unsightly appearance took its toll on his personal life. His five-foot, pale, skinny frame was topped by a disproportionately oversized head. Almost every portrait of him depicts him in a large gown with large folds—an apparent attempt by the artists to disguise his homeliness. This was probably the reason for Elizabeth Singer's rejection of his marriage proposal. As one biographer noted, "Though she loved the jewel, she could not admire the casket [case] which contained it."

More than a poet, however, Watts was also a scholar of wide reputation, especially in his later years. He wrote nearly 30 theological treatises; essays on psychology, astronomy, and philosophy; three volumes of sermons; the first children's hymnal; and a textbook on logic that served as a standard work on the subject for generations. (Source: Christianity Today)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Grove building.

GRIEFSHARE: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. All are welcome!

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Throughout November. \$3/person or \$5/couple.

BLANKETS PLUS OFFERING: Church World Service (CWS)
Offering Taken Throughout November. In 2019, 154,000 blankets were distributed worldwide by Church World Service.

FEED-a-FRIEND MARATHON: The Marathon benefits New Hope Ministries and can be heard on *Happy FM 95.3*, *Rocky FM 98.5* and *WHVR AM 1280*. We will be collecting canned goods and/or cash donations from November 15 thru December 6. Every \$1 buys 3 cans and \$8 buys a case of canned goods. Broadcast times: Thursday, December 10, Noon to 8:00 PM & Friday, December 11, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

"CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS"—New Hope Ministries: Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting various toys and household items to be distributed by New Hope Ministries for needy families in our area. Lists of items will be available for you at church services and online (www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements). As well as toys for children, there is especially a need for teen items. *No clothing items are being*

collected. Many clients do not have full-size kitchen appliances, so we are focusing on providing small kitchen appliances such as crock pots and toaster ovens which are essential for them. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in making Christmas so much brighter for those in our area. Collections can be made at the church Sunday mornings. Deadline for donations will be Sunday, November 30.

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE: The Council of Churches has informed us that they have many hats, mittens and scarves on hand this year. We will not be collecting those items during this Advent season. Instead, we will be collecting items for Homewood Skilled Care residents. Items Needed: Christmas Cards, Unscented Body Lotion, Cube-style Tissue Boxes (Christmas-themed, if possible). Collection of items will begin Sunday, December 6. Thank you!

CARD SHOWER: Nancy Garrett will be celebrating her 90th birthday on November 26.

Nancy's Address:

Nancy Garrett
Cottage 114
425 Westminster Avenue
Hanover, PA 17331

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Christmas Poinsettias, \$11/each. We will be using red poinsettias again. Order by December 6. Make checks payable to St. David's UCC and write "Poinsettias" in the memo section of your check. An order form can be downloaded by clicking on the poinsettia photo on the church website in the announcement section:
<https://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements>

CLEAN GALLON-SIZED PLASTIC MILK/JUICE CONTAINERS WANTED: The Music and Worship Committee is collecting gallon-sized plastic milk/juice bottles for making luminaries to be placed around the church on Christmas Eve. We cannot drink that much milk ourselves until Christmas and we need your help. Bring your clean, label-free bottles to church and give them to Nancy Costello. Thank you!

UCC PENSION FUND OFFERING (Benefits Retired Clergy)

Offering Dates: Sunday, December 20 and the Christmas Eve Worship Services. We are able to express our love and compassion for retired UCC Clergy through this offering. These are individuals who have faithfully served their congregations and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. This assistance will benefit those who need help with health insurance premiums, and emergency financial or household needs. Thank you for your contributions.

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

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS: If you would like to mail your offerings to the church, please mail them to Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 and include one offering envelope indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David's!

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (HACC)

HACC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

PAL — Packing, Serving, If Anyone Would Like to Volunteer for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, a Few More Individuals are Needed to Work in the Kitchen.

Changing Lives Shelter — AM And PM Shifts

Meals on Wheels — Runners and Drivers

Front Desk —Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, Reception Help.

Cleaning — Wednesday

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL: Spaghetti Sauce, Ranch and Italian Dressing, Sauerkraut, Stove Top Chicken Stuffing, Individual Fruit Cups, Butter, Breadcrumbs

Changing Lives Shelter: Large Debris Trash Bags, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Medium Size Exam Type Gloves, Disinfectant Wipes/Sprays

HACC General (Benefits All Ministries): Lysol Spray/ Disinfecting Spray

Meals on Wheels: Prayer Cards/ Words of Encouragement for Our Shut-Ins, Large Print Word Find or Crossword Activity Books, (Old Extra-Large Print Devotion Books. We Currently Have 10 Books and Need 30 More to Reach All of Our Shut-ins.

Clothing Bank: New Children's Socks

HACC Clothing Bank: Many good quality clothing items available. Clients and the public are welcome to setup an appointment to select clothing (2 Free Bags and \$.50 each item above). Call 717-633-6353 for an appointment. Open Mon–Thurs, 9 am–Noon. Masks required, temp check, sanitize hands.

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: Community Aid will be removing the bins from our church property. They are currently accepting donations of *clothing, shoes, toys, books* and *jewelry* at the store on Baltimore St. Just mention St. David's United Church of Christ and our **Code Number, #20003** and we will receive \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hanover Center (Baltimore St.) Click on the link to apply: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=926601804&OR=1>