

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls, "Where are you?"

People: And we respond with guilty silence.

Leader: God calls and we are afraid.

People: God is our dwelling place, and we try to move out.

Leader: In Christ, God summons us back.

People: It's hard to reorder our priorities to give God first place in our lives.

Leader: There is good news here of Sabbath rest and resources to meet all life's troubles.

Unison: We come to listen for God's active, living word, and open ourselves to the One who knows us best.

OPENING HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (#1 Red)

Author: Reginald Heber (1826). Tune: NICAEA (Dykes). (Public Domain)

- 1)** Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the Morning Our Song Shall Rise to Thee
Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and Mighty
God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity
- 2)** Holy, Holy, Holy, All the Saints Adore Thee
Casting Down Their Golden Crowns Around the Glassy Sea
Cherubim and Seraphim, Falling Down Before Thee
Who Wert and Art and Ever More Shall Be
- 3)** Holy, Holy, Holy, Though the Darkness Hide Thee
Though the Eye of Sinful Man Thy Glory May Not See
Only Thou Art Holy, There Is None Beside Thee
Perfect in Power, Love and Purity

4) Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

All Thy Works Shall Praise Thy Name, in Earth and Sky and Sea

Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and Mighty

God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Walk among us, God, with mercy and not wrath. Help us to hear Your good news and make faithful response. May Your Word cut through our pretenses and purify our hearts. Refocus our attention from material abundance we can accumulate to the riches of right relationships. In Jesus' name. AMEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

God asks us, "What have you done?" and in the light of God's countenance our secret sins are revealed. Let us examine ourselves and seek forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amid the toil and troubles of life, we admit, O God, that we focus too much on ourselves and the things we can accumulate. We fail to see the pain of others, and if we do see their agony, we discount it. We blame others for the mistakes we ourselves make and expect special consideration when we are disobedient. Save us God. Hear our prayers of personal confession.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All who put God first in their lives will know that God can accomplish what is impossible by our own efforts. We will know, even when life is difficult, that salvation has come and eternal life is a reality. Praise God!

SONG: "Give Thanks"

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Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy one.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy one.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

(REPEAT ALL)

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Genesis 3:8-19, Mark 10:17-31, Hebrews 4:12-16

GENESIS 3:8-19

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

MARK 10:17-31

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

²⁹ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

HEBREWS 4:12-16

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

CHILDREN’S STORYTIME

SERMON: “Approachable God”

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

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Leader: God has walked among us to reveal us to ourselves.

People: God has spoken and acted to save us.

Leader: God promises eternal life as a gift, not as a status we can earn.

Unison: With God all things are possible; we rejoice in the goodness of God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (#161 Red)

Author: Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane (1868). Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER (Maker)
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| 1) Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat
And the burden of the day. | 2) Upon the cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me:
And from my smitten heart with tears
Two wonders I confess,
The wonders of glorious love
And my own worthlessness. |
|--|---|

- 3)** I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.