

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

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

October 25, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, whose love for us is boundless and whose mercy extends to all Your children, help us to love You with our whole being, that we may live confidently, growing in our relationship with You and with one another until the whole world shares in the experience of Your loving care. May the great commandments of Christ, summing up all the law and the prophets, motivate and empower the whole family of humankind. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

[Refrain]

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. [Refrain]

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
Neighbors are black and white,
Neighbors are nearby and far away. [Refrain]

3 Loving puts us on our knees.
Serving as though we are slaves.
This is the way we should live with You. [Refrain]

Jesu, Jesu, Jesu

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

How often have we been unwitting opponents of the gospel, denying good news by the ways we work and relate? How much do we rely on human wisdom, rather than thirsting for the pure waters of eternal reality? Who do we seek to

please, God or influential persons? Let us confess our unfaithfulness and the limits of our trust.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we have not been diligent in sharing the good news. We have substituted empty words of flattery for gentle messages of truth. We have nursed our grievances rather than the people who need our care. We have been more concerned with honor than with service. Our greed outruns our generosity. Perhaps we have not loved others because we have not fully claimed our own worth as Your beloved children. Grant us the will and the courage to change.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and believe the gospel. Jesus Christ delivers us from the wrath to come. We are forgiven, approved by God, and entrusted with the love that restores us to full communion with the Sovereign One. Blessed is everyone who fears God and walks in God's way. Share the good news!

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 1; Matthew 22:34–46

PSALM 1

- ¹Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
⁴Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

MATTHEW 22:34-46

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Whose Son Is the Messiah?

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."

⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

SERMON: "Greatest Commandment"

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, for ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

God has given us commandments by which to live.

God has embraced us with love that inspires our love.

We will love God with our heart and soul and mind; and we will love ourselves and our neighbors.

CLOSING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

- 1** Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2** Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest:
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3** Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
- 4** Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
'Til in heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

HYMN NOTES:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love: Tom Colvin (1963).

Tom Colvin (b. 1925; d. 2000) was trained as an engineer and worked in that profession in Burma and Singapore from 1945 to 1948. After studying theology at Trinity College, Glasgow University, he was ordained in the Church of Scotland in 1954. He served as missionary in Nyasaland (now Malawi) from 1954 to 1958, in Ghana from 1958 to 1964, and again in Nyasaland from 1964 to 1974. His work there included preaching, education, and community development. After completing his missionary work, Colvin became a minister in the United Reformed Church of England and served an inner-city church in London. He returned to Africa in 1984 as a development consultant to the Zimbabwe Christian Council. Colvin's writings include *Christ's Work in Free Africa* (1964) and three collections of hymns, many written in collaboration with African Christians—*Free to Serve* (1966), *Leap My Soul* (1976), and *Fill Us with Your Love* (1983). (Source: Bert Polman)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Charles Wesley was born at Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, on December 18, 1707. He was a fragile, tiny baby, the eighteenth of nineteen children of a poor, Church of England clergyman and his long-suffering wife. Nine of the couple's previous children died in infancy. His mother feared that this boy, born several weeks premature, would also not survive. He is said to have written no less than 6500 hymns, with quite a few rising to excellence. His feelings on every occasion of importance, whether private or public, found their best expression in a hymn. "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" is a hymn written by Charles Wesley with a theme of "Christian perfection." While the hymn is one of Wesley's best known, it is also considered a prayer. In the prayer of the hymn, we are asking Jesus to enter our hearts, set our hearts free from sin, and make us a new creation in him. The hymn is written around a progression of thoughts: (1) our prayers for the Holy Spirit, (2) praying for the return of our Lord through the second coming, and (3) prayers for the finalization of his new creation. (Excerpts from John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology* (1907)).

WEEKLY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, OCTOBER 25, 2020

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 October and November. \$3/person or \$5/couple.

ALL SAINTS DAY: All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1. We will celebrate the saints who have been called to their eternal home in the last year. If you have a family member or friend that you would like to have remembered, please contact the church office at 717-637-2299 by Monday, October 26.

CANNED CORN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY DINNERS: New Hope Ministries will be providing food packets for delicious Thanksgiving meals for area guests and their families in Hanover this Thanksgiving. We have pledged to help by providing **200 cans of corn** for the dinners. Please have your donations to the church by **Sunday, November 8**. We can help to make Thanksgiving a happy and healthy one for our local neighbors. Thank you for your contributions!

BLANKETS PLUS OFFERING: Church World Service (CWS) **OFFERING DATE:** NOVEMBER 15
We all know the frequent reports of devastation from floods, hurricanes and earthquakes in the USA and around the world. We want to help make our neighbors a little bit warmer with a warm blanket to comfort them in their need. Blankets can be used as a shelter, for carrying items, for providing warmth and security to displaced persons. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. Write on the memo line "For Blanket Sunday". Thank you for your love and generosity.

"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 will be 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pscott8283@comcast.net) 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!

PASTOR APPRECIATION:

October is Pastor Appreciation month. If you would like to send Pastor Scott a card or note of appreciation, his home address is 325 Park Heights Blvd, Hanover, PA 17331. You may also mail your notes or cards to the church or bring them with you to a Sunday worship service and place them in the offering plate as you leave.

FALL BACK NOVEMBER 1
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT

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 — Tues, Thurs, And Fri Reception Help.

Cleaning— Wed

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 Our Shut-ins.

Clothing Bank: New Children's Socks

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. We will soon be receiving a "Code" for donations of clothing items by our St. David's members. We will keep you informed when that information is available. Just mention St. David's United Church of Christ and our code number and we will receive \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES:

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hanover Center, 135 Baltimore Street is in great need of various volunteer positions: Pantry Helpers, Parking Helpers and Administrative Helpers are needed. If interested in volunteering, click on the following link for an online application form:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=926601804&OR=1>