

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY
October 4, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, our rock and our redeemer, enlighten us today through the ancient witness of Your faithful people. Lead us to desire the guidance of Your word. May it shape our living and warn us when we are in error. We seek to honor Your name and divest ourselves of idols. Work with us to develop right relationships in our families and with all Your children near and far, we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "How Great Thou Art"

Stanza 1

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Chorus

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art?
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art?

Stanza 2

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on that cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Repeat Chorus

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are tenants to whom God has leased some of the earth's wealth. God comes among us to collect what we have produced, to claim a portion of all that is God's own. Our Creator seeks an accounting of our faithfulness to the way of life designed for us. Let us seek forgiveness for our shortcomings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have no righteousness of our own. We have bent and ignored Your law. Your commandments inform us but do not transform. We give lip service to Your law but seek to avoid its implication for our lives. We recognize some of our errors, but many are hidden from us. We devote our energies to accumulating possessions that function as idols in our lives. We depend on them more than we honor You. Save us, we pray, from great transgressions and help us to reorder our days.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we call on God in our distress, we are heard. When we confess our self-centered rebellion, God delivers us. Surely our Creator will lead us to that realm where we are known and welcomed as forgiven sinners. Live no longer as enemies of the cross, but as friends of Christ.

HOLY SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 20:1-17

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

⁷ You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Philippians 3:4–14

⁴ If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in ^[a]Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

The Parable of the Tenants

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”

⁴³“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

SERMON: “Rejection”

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LITURGY

At this time, O God, we are especially thankful for the golden ripe grain and for the ripe fruit of the vine. Where do they come from? The farmers who took them into their barns think they are the result of their own labors, but, O God, they are Yours. To sustain our lives, You have given us the sunshine and the proper rain – by these we sustain our lives and for them we are grateful. Just as the farmers, following natural laws, are busy at the time of sowing so that they will reap, so may we follow the laws that You have established and sow righteousness every day. We believe that all people are the children of God and have worth and dignity. All are welcome to share at this table. As we prepare to follow the example of Jesus, sharing this bread and wine, let us dedicate ourselves anew to live in such a way that justice will roll like waters, that unity will become real, and that peace will abide among all people. AMEN

Jesus took the bread ...

Jesus took the cup ...

BENEDICTION

God meets us when we gather to worship; God goes with us as we depart to serve.

CLOSING HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation"

Stanza 1

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation
by Spirit and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

Stanza 2

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Stanza 3

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation,
Of peace for evermore.
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

WEEKLY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GRIEFSHARE: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. Please share with family members and friends who are experiencing a time of grief. All are welcome!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: Throughout October

This United Church of Christ offering supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Two-thirds of the offering supports projects that support voting rights, health care and civil liberties. One third supports UCC churches on American Indian Reservations. Please see Linda Huggens to make your donation.

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 October 25.

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!

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!

HARTMAN CENTER COMMEMORATIVE TEE-SHIRTS: Aleshia Hawkins is taking orders for the Hartman Center Commemorative Tee-shirts. \$19.99/each. Colors: Stone Grey, Dark Heather Grey and White. Sizes XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL. To order: See Aleshia Hawkins.

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.

NEWS FROM THE HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

THE CLOTHING BANK IS OVERFLOWING: There are many, many good quality clothing items available at the Council of Churches Clothing Bank. Items are available for the public as well as for clients. Call for you appointment at 717-633-6353.

PAL Date: Saturday, October 24

Clothing Bank Date: Friday, October 16, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL: Cooking spray, Egg Noodles, Cream of Chicken Soup, Canned Fresh Carrots, Dish Detergent, Salad Dressing, Ziplock Sandwich Bags, Black Pepper.

Clothing Bank: Adult Toiletries.

Changing Lives Shelter: Volunteers Needed 4 PM – 7 PM, Deodorant, Feminine Products, Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitizing Wipes w/Bleach.

Ruth's Harvest: Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (All Single Serve Containers).

Donations are Accepted Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM or by Appointment (Call 717-633-6353 to schedule a drop-off time)

Volunteers are always needed for the various HACC ministries. PAL: packing, serving; Shelter: both AM and PM; Meals on Wheels: runners and drivers, prayer cards and words of encouragement for our shut-ins, large print word find or crossword activity books; Front Desk: Tuesday and Friday reception help; Cleaning: on Wednesdays.

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: There are **No Bin Pickups** at this time. The Drive-up is accepting

donations of clothing, shoes, jewelry, toys and games. They are not accepting household items or home décor items. Currently, drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES NEWS:

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. Click on the following link for an online application form:

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

HYMN HISTORY

HOW GREAT THOU ART: The history of the hymn How Great Thou Art begins with Mr. Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859–1940). He was a Swedish pastor, editor, and member of the Swedish parliament. Mr. Boberg was enjoying a nice walk when a thunderstorm suddenly appeared out of nowhere. A severe wind began to blow. After the storm was over, Mr. Boberg looked out over the clear bay. He then heard a church bell in the distance. And the words to How Great Thou Art begin to form in his heart —O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands hath made. ... Can you imagine what Boberg felt as he formed these words? There was such calmness after the fierce storm he could only utter those words of peace.

How Great Thou Art was translated by Stuart K. Hine, the English missionary to Ukraine. He found some version of the Russian text and sang it at an evangelistic meeting with his wife. He then translated the first three stanzas into English, which was sung at an evangelistic meeting in England during World War One. He published the first three verses (in both English and Russian) in 1949 in *Grace and Peace*, a Russian evangelistic paper which Hine edited. He later wrote the fourth verse as a triumphant message of life eternal. (Ref. *All about . . .*)

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION: Written by Samuel J. Stone (1839–1900), "The Church's One Foundation" was composed as a primary answer to the division within the Church of South Africa generated by John William Colenso, first Bishop of Natal, who denounced much of the Bible as untrue. This issue is referenced to within the fourth verse of the lyrics "Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed." When Bishop Colenso was dismissed for his teachings, he pleaded to the higher religious authorities in England.

It was then that Samuel Stone became included in the discussion. It sparked him to draft a set of hymns based on the Apostles' Creed in 1866. He titled it, *Lyra Fidelium; Twelve Hymns on the Twelve Articles of the Apostles' Creed*. "The Church's One Foundation" is based on the ninth article, The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints. (Ref. *Godtube*)

The church exists in a constant state of controversy and potential schism. In many ways, this text articulates feelings that are as fresh as ever.

British hymnology scholar H. E. C. Stapleton offers insight into the hymn's popularity: "The strength of the hymn lies in the simplicity and directness of its message, the vividness of its metaphor, and the deliberate and distinct echoes of words and phrases from Scripture. In *Lyra Fidelium* there are no less than four biblical quotations annotated to each verse; in one, seven. It was hailed in Stone's own time as 'the battle-song of the Church'" (Stapleton, "The Church's One Foundation").

Hymnologist Erik Routley esteemed this hymn among the best: "The church's one foundation" is one of the dozen greatest hymns in English, one of the two or three greatest on the subject of the Church, and beyond question the greatest on that subject to be written within the last hundred years. The first time you sing it, you realize that it is saying something of importance and saying it with authority; the fiftieth time you sing it you begin to realize what a depth of doctrine and truth there is in it."