

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

September 19, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

You watch over us, O God, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things as in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being. Thank You for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We submit ourselves to You for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with You, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. AMEN

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

People: **We gather to become more aware of that presence.**

Pastor: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

People: **There is always more to discover than we know.**

Pastor: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve.

Unison: **We seek to do good and not harm all our days.**

We would open our hands to the poor and needy.

OPENING HYMN: "It Is Well with My Soul"

(NCH #438)

Author: Horatio Gates Spafford (1873); alt. Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE (with refrain).

Philip P. Bliss, 1876. This hymn is in the Public Domain

- 1)** When peace like a river upholds me each day;
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

REFRAIN:

It is well (*it is well*)
With my soul; (*with my soul*)
It is well; It is well with my soul.

2) Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has paid life and blood for my soul. [**Refrain**]

3) My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [**Refrain**]

4) O God, speed the day that is filled with Your light,
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear;
Even so, it is well with my soul. [**Refrain**]

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to resist evil and to purify our hearts. Often our need for such cleansing is not apparent to us. We are hard pressed to find anything bad that we need to confess, and we take real delight in the good we have done. Yet the peaceful community God seeks, the serving church that embodies Christ, the spirit-filled company we are meant to be, are not yet realized. Our prayer of confession is for the whole people of God, including ourselves.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Turn us away from evil thought and deeds, O God of Light and Salvation. Put down in us falsehood and boasting, jealousy and selfish ambition. We confess that we aspire to power and recognition, while You call us to service. We would like to be first, even when You counsel us to accept more humble roles. Grant us childlike trust and peaceable goals, as we seek to embody Your purposes for us. Hear our silent prayers and confessions. ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God understands and forgives. How shall we respond? God helps us to turn from evil and leave it behind us. Will we accept the beauty, mystery, and mercy with which God surrounds us? Receive the gifts of God for your continuing growth.

HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (Red #85)

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt. TUNE: IN BABALONE, Dutch melody. Arr. by Julius Röntgen, 1906, Alternate Tune: HOLY MANNA.

This hymn is in the public domain.

- 1) There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows
Are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings
Have such kindly judgement given.
- 2) For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our minds,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word,
And our lives would show thanksgiving
For the goodness of our God.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 1, Mark 9:30-37

PSALM 1

- ¹ Blessed 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,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That 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.
- ⁴ Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

MARK 9:30-37

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

SERMON: "Legacy"

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

Pastor: We have received wisdom from above; let us carry it into our daily living.

People: **We go forth as servants of God, devoted to peace and righteousness**

Pastor: With sincerity and confidence, we undertake the work to which God calls us.

Unison: **The light of God's salvation shines on us. We go forth in the strength Christ gives.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Make Me a Servant"

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St. Davids UCC, CCLI 11427736.

Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, Make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.
