

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 27, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, when we make commitments, help us to follow through. When our actions condemn us, recall us to Yourself and grant us a new heart and a new spirit. We open ourselves to Your work among us and through each one of us. Show us Your glory and grant us to partake of Your goodness. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

Author: John Newton (1779); Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

Stanza 1

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may smile at all thy foes.

Stanza 2

See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Stanza 3

Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near;
Glorious things of Thee are spoken
Zion, city of our God.
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode.
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are summoned to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. The saving work of Christ is incomplete without our acceptance for ourselves of all Jesus lived and taught. So, we view ourselves today in the mirror of Christ, seeking a clearer image of the person God intends us to be.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we have heard You call us, and we have answered yes. Yet, we have gone our own way, ignoring the paths You bid us travel and the work You would have us do. We have considered ourselves to be good people, deserving special favor, yet we have not put You first in our lives. We have been conceited and selfish in our relationship with others. Seeing ourselves in the mirror of Christ, we begin to realize that we deserve Your wrath, not Your forgiveness. We are not worthy of the love You offer and the acceptance You extend. Help us, gracious God, as we examine ourselves...

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God accepts us in the midst of our struggles. There is encouragement in Christ, there is consolation from love, there is compassion, sympathy, and the opportunity to share in the Spirit. God blesses us as we gather in community, calling us to find our common mind in Christ Jesus. May we not only agree to do the work God places before us as a ministry of love but let us do all we can to share our faith with a faithfulness stripped of pretense and conceit. May our lives praise God!

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Psalm 25:1–9 (of David)

¹ To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; ² in You I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³ No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

⁴ Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; ⁵ guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Philippians 2:1–13 (Imitating Christ's Humility)

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,* ⁷ *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* ⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Matthew 21:23–32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

²⁵ “John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’”

²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’”

²⁹ “I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go.

³¹ Which of the two did what his father wanted? “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

SERMON: “*Keeping Our Promises*”

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

BENEDICTION

Remember always that God is at work in you.
With God’s help amazing things can be accomplished.
May we follow and serve in joyous obedience.

CLOSING HYMN: “**TRUST AND OBEY**”

Words: John H. Sammis; Tune: Daniel B. Towner; Arr. Carl Seals

Stanza 1

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Stanza 2

Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

Stanza 3

But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Stanza 4

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we’ll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey.

REFRAIN

Trust and Obey,
For there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

WEEKLY 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.

WORLDWIDE COMMUNION: Drive-Thru Communion will be held following the Worship service on **Sunday, October 4**. On Worldwide Communion Sunday we join with Christians all over the world as a Global family of faith, affirming that we are one body of believers and Christ is the head of the church. "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord ..."

ALL SAINTS SERVICE: 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!

POTATO HARVEST: A GREAT BIG Thank you to the Utz family for allowing us to plant 400 pounds of seed potatoes, peppers donated by Lehigh's greenhouse and tomatoes donated by Pleasant Hill Garden Center on their property earlier this summer. Thank you to the many volunteers who worked throughout the summer planting, keeping the weeds down, hilling the potatoes and harvesting the crops. The families that participated in the Summer Lunch Program were beneficiaries of the early produce, and so far, 144 pounds of potatoes have been distributed. We may have potatoes to sell so we can have seed money for the project next spring. Please check with Pastor Scott if you are interested in making a contribution to this mission project.

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. See Aleshia Hawkins to place an order.

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.

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.

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.

HACC NEEDS:

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. *(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.)*

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)

PAL Date: Saturday, October 24. **Clothing Bank Date:** Friday, October 16, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
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.

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hanover Center, 135 Baltimore Street is in great need of various volunteer positions:

Pantry helpers — Help stock shelves, help out with curbside, and handling the refrigerator and freezer. Greater need on Friday afternoons.

Parking helpers — Willing to move around frequently and able tolerate seasonal weather conditions. Help needed on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If interested, please call Andrew at (717) 698-3365, press x509.

Administrative – Scheduling on the calendar, paperwork for guests, opening/closing the lobby, greeting guests, light filing, informing others about our resources and area referrals. If interested, please call Amy at (717) 698-3365, press x503.

If interested in volunteering in any capacity, right click on the following link for an online application form: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=926601804&OR=1>

HYMN HISTORY

“GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN”: John Newton (b. London, England, 1725; d. London, 1807) was born into a Christian home, but his godly mother died when he was seven, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. His licentious and tumultuous sailing life included a flogging for attempted desertion from the Royal Navy and captivity by a slave trader in West Africa. After his escape he himself became the captain of a slave ship. Several factors contributed to Newton's conversion: a near-drowning in 1748, the piety of his friend Mary Catlett, (whom he married in 1750), and his reading of Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and, in association with William Wilberforce, eventually became an ardent abolitionist. After becoming a tide-surveyor in Liverpool, England, Newton came under the influence of George Whitefield and John and Charles Wesley and began to study for the ministry. He was ordained in the Church of England and served in Olney (1764–1780) and St. Mary Woolnoth, London (1780–1807). His legacy to the Christian church includes his hymns as well as his collaboration with William Cowper (PHH 434) in publishing *Olney Hymns* (1779), to which Newton contributed 280 hymns, including “Amazing Grace.”

NOTE: The opening line of this hymn quotes Psalm 87:3 “Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God” (ESV). The theme of these stanzas is the universal church, and its story. The text begins with a vision of the new city of God (Hebrews 12:22) in the first two stanzas, and then looks back to the early journey of the Israelites, with references in the third stanza to cloud, fire, and manna (Exodus 13:21, 16:31). We are reminded through this of the long history God has with His people, and of the wonderful future awaiting those who are, through grace, members of God's family.

“TRUST AND OBEY”: John H. Sammis was born in Brooklyn. He moved to Logansport, Indiana when ye was 22, where he was converted to Christianity. He was active in the Y.M.C.A., serving as secretary for the Terre Haute Association and later becoming State Secretary. After this, he studied at Lane and McCormack seminaries and was ordained in the Presbyterian church at Glidden, Iowa. He also pastored churches in Indianapolis, Grand Haven, MI, Red Wing and St. Paul, Minn. In 1909 he became associated with the Los Angeles Bible Institute. He wrote more than 100 hymns.*

**Dianne Shapiro, from "The Singers and Their Songs: sketches of living gospel hymn writers" by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (Chicago: The Rodeheaver Company, 1916)*