

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

**September 5, 2021**

**8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

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**WELCOME**

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**All knowing God, whose wisdom flies in the face of our own, open our lives to Your point of view. Teach us to pursue riches of the spirit more than material gain. Enable us to value faithfulness more than safety and security. Help us to stand with the poor and oppressed as advocates for justice and equality, for we would follow Christ. AMEN**

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship. Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

**PEOPLE:** **This is a place where all belong. This is a time when all are accountable to God.**

**LEADER:** The Maker of all seeks our common good. The God of mercy calls us to be merciful.

**PEOPLE:** **We are not judges over our sisters and brothers. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**LEADER:** Come to sing praises and put your trust in God. Come to prepare yourselves to serve in Christ's name.

**UNISON:** **We bring all our needs to God, our hope. We want to share faith and hope with others.**

**OPENING HYMN:** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" (#498 NCH)

(Ghanian Folk Song, adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969, Rev. 1994. Words copyright © 1969; Arr. copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co. Tune: CHEREPONI. Arr. by Jane Marshall, 1982. New Century Hymnal. St. David's UCC, CCLI 11427736)

1) Knelt at the feet of His friends,  
Silently washing their feet,  
Jesus, You acted as servant to them.

### **REFRAIN**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your love,  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from You.

2) Neighbors are rich and poor,  
Varied in colors and race,  
Neighbors are near and far away. **[Refrain]**

3) These are the ones we should serve,  
These are the ones we should love;  
All these are neighbors to us and You. **[Refrain]**

4) Loving puts us on our knees,  
Showing our faith by our deeds,  
Serving the neighbors we have from You. **[Refrain]**

5) Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
Silently washing their feet,  
This is the way we should live with You. **[Refrain]**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

In Christ, we are called to declare our faith, to put into words and deeds all that we truly believe. None of us has measured up to God's intention for us, so we return once more to seek forgiveness and release from the burden of guilt we carry. Let us pray.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we are numbered among the evildoers who have turned aside into crooked ways, wandering far from the paths on which You intend that we go. We have chased after riches of silver and gold for ourselves, while neglecting persons who are ill-clad and hungry. We have sown injustice and reaped**

**calamity, and then blamed You for deserting us. Forgive us, Loving God, for permitting and pursuing evil and for showing partiality to those most like ourselves. Save us from the guilt and pain we have brought on our own lives and on Your world. Hear us as we confess. ....**

### **A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION**

### **UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**When we show mercy, we are able to accept God's mercy, which triumphs over judgment. God can turn our waywardness upside down and set us on the path of true community with those whom we have disdained or ignored. God opens our minds and hearts to hear and understand those who need our help. God empowers our response. All glory to our awesome God!**

**HOLY SCRIPTURES:** Psalm 146, Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, James 2:1-5

### **PSALM 146**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

<sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.

<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free,

<sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

## **PROVERBS 22:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> A good name is more desirable than great riches;  
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup> Rich and poor have this in common:  
The LORD is the Maker of them all.

## **PROVERBS 22:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity,  
and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

<sup>9</sup> The generous will themselves be blessed,  
for they share their food with the poor.

## **JAMES 2:1-5**

### **Favoritism Forbidden**

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

## **CHILDREN'S STORYTIME**

**SERMON:** "No Partiality"

## **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**

We have heard the whispers of God, who sends us from our worship to serve our world. We seek to treat others as God's children without partiality or distinction. May we abide in God and live by faith.

### **CLOSING HYMN:** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (#403 NCH)

(Author: Edward Mote (1834); Tune: SOLID ROCK.

This hymn is in the Public Domain)

<b>1)</b> My hope is built on nothing less	<b><u>REFRAIN:</u></b>
Then Jesus' love and righteousness.	On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
I dare not trust this earthly frame	All other ground is sinking sand,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.	All other ground is sinking sand.

**2)** When shadows veil my Savior's face,  
I rest upon unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil. [**Refrain**]

**3)** Christ's oath and covenant and blood  
Support me in the rising flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
Christ then is all my hope and stay. [**Refrain**]

**4)** When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Love be found,  
Dressed in God's righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne. [**Refrain**]