

**ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 6, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

**WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Righteous and holy God, Your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up mountainous problems are leveled. In Your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of Your eternal purposes. So, come among us now and speak Your word of peace. Feed us with Your truth and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. AMEN

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the "Prince of Peace." Christ's name is also Emmanuel, "God with us." The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day.

**OPENING HYMN:** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

**1.** Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free;  
To take away transgressions,  
And rule in equity.

**2.** He comes with succor speedy  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Are precious in his sight.

**3.** He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
Shall peace, the herald, go,  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.

**4.** To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever;  
That name to us is love.

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE:** Miss Dee

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God is patient with us, not wanting any to perish. Yet we have turned away from holiness and godliness. We have chosen to fit into society rather than give leadership for a new day. Let the church confess its failures.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized You in our midst nor listened to Your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to You today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us we pray.

**A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Behold your God! Your salvation is at hand. Accept God's forgiveness and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God will give you all good things you need.

**HOLY SCRIPTURES:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

**ISAIAH 40:1-11**

**Comfort for God's People**

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

## **MARK 1:1–8**

### **John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—

<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**SERMON:** "God of Comfort"

**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**

Announce the good news of Jesus Christ  
Prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.  
Christ brings hope for true to all people.

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Comfort, Comfort, Oh My People"

<b>1.</b> Comfort, comfort, O my people, Speak of peace, now says our God; Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak unto Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell of all the sins I cover, And that warfare now is over.	<b>2.</b> Hark, the voice of one who's crying In the desert far and near, Bidding all to full repentance Since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
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**HYMN NOTES:**

**HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED:** Written by James Montgomery (1771–1854). Montgomery's father was a minister, and his parents later served as missionaries to the West Indies. James remained in Yorkshire and was raised from age 6 in a boy's boarding school administered by the Brethren of Fulneck. Montgomery said, "There, whatever we did was done in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom we were taught to regard in the amiable and endearing light of a friend and brother."

Inspired by the hymn of the Moravians, he began to write poetry at age 10. Despite flunking out of school at age 14, Montgomery found a job in 1792 at

a radical weekly newspaper, the *Sheffield Register*. He assumed the leadership of the paper not long after, when the previous editor fled the country fearing persecution for his politics. Montgomery changed the name of the paper to the "Iris, and served as editor for 31 years, during which time he was a tireless supporter of social justice. He was jailed twice for his radical views, using the time in prison to write poetry.

This hymn, written in 1821, was originally 8 stanzas and a paraphrase of Psalm 72. Montgomery's paraphrase points to the coming kingdom where the oppressed will be freed and Christ will "rule in equity." (Source: Discipleship Ministries, the United Methodist Church).

The version used in today's service is from the United Methodist Hymnal. The music is Gesangbuch der H.W.k. Hofkapelle; adapted and harmonized by W.H. Monk. The tune is ELLACOMBE. (The hymn was recorded during worship by Christ United, Plano, Texas. We thank them for their unknowing use of their beautiful rendition of this great hymn.)

**COMFORT, COMFORT, OH MY PEOPLE:** Written by Johannes Olearius (1611–1684, Germany). Born into a family of Lutheran theologians, Olearius received his education at the University of Wittenberg and later taught theology there. He was ordained a Lutheran pastor and appointed court preacher to Duke August of Sachsen-Weissenfels in Halle and later to Duke Johann Adolph in Weissenfels. Olearius wrote a commentary on the entire Bible, published various devotional books, and produced a translation of the *Imitatio Christi* by Thomas a Kempis. In the history of church music Olearius is mainly remembered for his hymn collection, which was widely used in Lutheran churches. (Source: Bert Polman)

Originally written as a German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5, the text of this hymn was meant to show the promise of better days to come within the coming of the Messiah. The passage from Isaiah marks the beginning of the remaining large passages of prophecies (Isa. 40–66), in which the prophecies display messages of condolence and of hope that the exile of Judah from Babylon will soon be over. The hymn was written by Johann Olearius in honor of St. John the Baptist day and was published in the 1671.

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 6, 2020**

**BELL PRACTICE:** Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Sunday School wing.

**GRIEFSHARE:** Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building.

**FEED-a-FRIEND MARATHON:** The Marathon benefits New Hope Ministries and can be heard on *Happy FM 95.3*, *Rocky FM 98.5* and *WHVR AM 1280*. Broadcast times: Thursday, December 10, Noon to 8:00 PM & Friday, December 11, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. (*Donation Deadline: December 6*)

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMEWOOD RESIDENTS:** We are currently collecting items for Homewood Skilled Care residents. Items Needed: *Christmas Cards, Unscented Body Lotion, Cube-style Tissue Boxes (Christmas-themed, if possible)*. Collecting items now through Sunday, December 6. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Christmas Poinsettias, \$11/each. We will be using red poinsettias again. *Order by December 6*. Make checks payable to St. David's UCC and write "Poinsettias" in the memo section of your check. An order form can be downloaded by clicking on the poinsettia photo on the church website in the announcement section:

<https://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements>

### **UCC PENSION FUND OFFERING (Benefits Retired Clergy). Offering**

**Dates:** Sunday, December 20 and the Christmas Eve Worship Services. We are able to express our love and compassion for retired UCC Clergy through this offering. These are individuals who have faithfully served their congregations and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. This assistance will benefit those who need help with health insurance premiums, and emergency financial or household needs. Thank you for your contributions.

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

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## **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:** Sauerkraut, Large Cans of Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Pasta Sauces, Single-serve Fruits, Canned Pears, Scalloped Potatoes Boxes, Corn Bread Mix, Beef and Chicken Broth, Ziploc Sandwich Baggies

**Changing Lives Shelter:** Large Trash Bag, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Disinfectant Wipes/Spray, Umbrellas or Ponchos

**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 of Our Shut-ins.

**Clothing Bank:** Family-Sized Toiletries, Sheet Sets (all sizes), Bath Towels, Men's White T-shirts (L & XL), Baby Diapers (Size 4-5). (Note: Many good quality clothing items are available. Both clients and anyone in the public are welcome to setup an appointment to select clothing. You will be given *Two Free Bags* of clothing. After that, each item is \$.50. Call 717-633-6353 for an appointment. Open Mon-Thurs 9 am- Noon. Masks required, temperature check, and sanitize hands.)

**Ruth's Harvest:** Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (all single-serve).

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**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. Just mention St. David's United Church of Christ and our **Code number, #20003** and we will receive \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.