

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 18, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of our ancestors, author of life, source of Easter good news, we are drawn together again by the mystery of your promises. We call on You, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let Your face shine on us as we put our trust in You. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives. Grant us a fuller sense of what is right and good and help us to live at our best. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "The Day of Resurrection"

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

Author: St. John of Damascus; Translator: J.M. Neale

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| <p>1) The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The passover of gladness,
The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over,
With hymns of victory.</p> | <p>2) Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And listening to his accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.</p> |
| <p>3) Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein!
Invisible and visible,
Their notes in all things blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.</p> | |

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

In his preaching, the disciple Peter reminded his listeners that no one can escape the collective guilt that allows innocent people to suffer. The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger we are reluctant to claim. Yet we, too, reject the Holy One, by our neglect if not by deliberate intent. Peter invites us to repent and turn to God that our sins may be wiped away.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view many people we see as Your children: murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense. We feel like victims. Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know we do not abide in Your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by You, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness You promise and the health You offer. Hear our silent prayers and petitions. ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As we repent and turn away from evil, our sins are blotted out. Times of refreshment come from the presence of the Sovereign God, who has heard our cries. God claims us as children of the Most High and offers us a safe haven. Our faith makes us strong to lead others to God's healing power.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: 1 John 3:1-11, Luke 24:36-48, Acts 3

1 JOHN 3:1-11

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one

who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

More on Love and Hatred

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

LUKE 24:36-48

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the

third day,⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

ACTS 3

Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Peter Speaks to the Onlookers

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²²For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’

²⁴“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

SERMON: “Our Odd God”

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: Put your trust in God as you face another week. Follow faithfully where Christ leads.

CLOSING HYMN: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Author: Charles Wesley (1739)

1) O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

2) My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad
The honors of your name.

3) The name that charms our fears,
And bids our sorrows cease,
Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

4) To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

*Hymns used: Public Domain

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, April 18, 2021

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL! We have joined with St. Jacob's Stone UCC to offer Sunday School via Zoom each Sunday at 1:00 PM. There will be a story lesson, a craft and song time every week. For more information, see Miss Dee at worship or have an adult privately message her via Facebook, message Pastor Sager or email the Church office (office@stdavidsucc.com). To join in on Sunday School, right click on the following link (or enter *Zoom.com* in your browser), Click "join a meeting" and then enter the Meeting ID and password as printed here: [ZOOM LINK TO JOIN CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL](#)

Meeting ID: 717 212 9122

Password: 547270

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Currently, our 8:30 AM Worship service is being livestreamed to our YouTube channel. The following link will take you to our church's YouTube channel where you can subscribe to our channel if you wish to do so. By subscribing, you will receive a notification whenever we go live, eliminating the need for you to search for us on YouTube. If you are unable to watch the livestream in real time, you will still be able to watch the recorded video at your convenience. [LINK to St. David's YouTube Channel](#)

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM at the church.

MENS GROUP: Monday, April 19 at 7:00 PM at the church with masks and social distancing. The 9-week curriculum is entitled "The Discipleship Playbook." Meetings can also be accessed via Uber Conference (717-388-0676).

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 PM. We will not be rehearsing any anthems at this time, but instead will be singing and recording the hymn selections for upcoming worship services. Anyone who would like to help record the hymns is welcome at these rehearsals. Masks and social distancing, please.

FIRESIDE FRIENDS: Bonfire on Friday, April 23 at 7:30 PM at the home of Melissa and Tammy.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study, Tuesdays (Mornings, 9:30 AM; Evenings, 7:30 PM). We will be studying the Book of Revelation. All sessions are in-person in the church Sanctuary with masks and social distancing being practiced. Bible Study will also be available via Uber Conference (717-388-0676) for anyone who does not feel comfortable meeting in person. We look forward to having you join us.

MISSION COMMITTEE APRIL FUNDRAISER: The Mission Committee will be accepting donations for Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) throughout the month of April. O.U.R. has made a significant impact in the fight to end sex trafficking and sexual exploitation by rescuing and supporting thousands of survivors in 28 countries and 26 U.S. states. To learn more visit the O.U.R. website at: [Operation Underground Railroad \(ourrescue.org\)](https://ourrescue.org) Use the following link if you'd like to make an online donation: [St. David's UCC Fundraiser \(ourrescue.org\)](https://ourrescue.org)

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET: Volunteers are needed to help clean the medical equipment that is returned or donated to us. We also need a helper or 2 with a trailer to load up excess items in the church basement and transport them to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Pastor Scott. Thank you.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM: We will be collecting food items for the Summer Lunch Program starting on MAY 4 and continuing each Tuesday at St. David's Lutheran church between 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM through July. Store brand foods are fine. Sizes are suggested to keep the bags of food similar for each family. Distribution will begin in June.

HOMEWOOD BENEVOLENT FUND: Offering Date MAY 9, Mother's Day Offering. Homewood never asks a resident to leave due to financial reasons. The Benevolent Fund Offering helps to fill the gaps in finances. Regardless of income levels, everyone at Homewood is treated with dignity and respect. Your donation will provide continued care for those who need it most. Thank you for your support.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pastor@stdavidsucc.com or pscott8283@comcast.net) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Indoor Worship, Sundays at 8:30 AM masks and social distancing. If you are not comfortable in larger gatherings, you may still attend the 8:30 AM Worship service and remain in your car and listen to the service on FM 95.9 on your car radio.

Parking Lot Worship, Sundays at 10:30 AM.

Uber Conference will continue, as well, for both services. Updated guidelines for returning to worship are in your March Newsletter. They are also available on the Home page of the Church website: www.stdavidsucc.com

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: The bins have been removed from our property. Items can be dropped off at the donation center on Baltimore Street. Give them our church code #20003 and they will give us \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Thank you for your participation.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (HACC)

PAL DATE: April 24, May 22

CLOTHING BANK DATE: No May Date

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL

Single-serve Fruits
Instant White Rice
Scallop Potatoes

Changing Lives Shelter

Deodorant
Body Wash
Razors
Paper Towels
Clorox Wipes
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags

Clothing Bank

Sheet Sets (All Sizes)
Bath Towels
Men's (L & XL) White T-shirts

Ruth's Harvest

Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Vegetables)

STOLTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND: The Stolte Scholarship Fund provides a grant for \$1000 to an individual pursuing a career in the field of ministry, mission or humanitarian service. Interested applicants must be residents of the greater

Hanover area and should be a high school senior, college student or a seminary student. He or she may complete an application and submit a brief summary of their call into the field of service and list their future vocational goals. They should be an active member of a church, display good moral character and exhibit high scholastic ability. Applications forms are available from our church office or from the Hanover Area Council of Churches. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2021. For additional information please call the Council office at 717-633-6353.

NEW HOPE NEEDS: Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Peanut Butter, Canned Meats, Personal Care Items. For more info: www.nhm-pa.org