

ST. DAVID's (Shermans) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12TH Sunday After Pentecost
August 23, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of prophets and apostles, we recognize that we have been called to join that company of witnesses who serve You on earth. We seek faith to discern Your presence and courage to follow the One You sent to lead us, Jesus the Christ. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: **Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**
Latin, 7th Century, Translated by John Mason Neale
Joachim Neander

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever,
And her confidence alone.

Lord, here grant to all Your servants,
What they ask of You to gain.
What they gain from You forever,
With the blessed to retain.
And hereafter in Your glory,
Evermore with You to reign.

To this temple, where we call you.
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With accustomed loving kindness,
Hear Your people as they pray.
And Your fullest benediction,
Shed within its walls away.

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One.
One in might and One in glory,
While unending ages run.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee, "The Snake"

HOLY SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 17:1-7**
Water from the Rock

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go."

⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock of Horab. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like the Hebrews of old, we find ourselves in the Wilderness of Sin, dry and empty, discouraged, and angry, doubting and demanding. We wander in and out of the desert, sometimes staying so long that we are hollow corpses. Wherever we, personally, are today, we know that some of us need desperately to find a way out of the wilderness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abiding and eternal God, we confess our desperation. We need water, but our own wells are dry. We are fearful of coming to the living waters, lest they be a mirage. We are afraid to drink deeply from Your hand, lest more be asked of us than we are ready to give. We are content so often to go through the motions of religion rather than confess a faith that may be challenged. God help us!

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There is a creative, loving power in the universe on whom we can depend. God smiles on us, even when we test and demand proof, when all around us are the miracles of every day. O that today we would listen to the voice of God, the God who refreshes and renews and forgives.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 138, Romans 12:1–8, Matthew 16:12–20

Psalm 138 of David

¹ I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

³ When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, O LORD, when they hear the words of your mouth.

⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.

⁶ Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

Roman 12:1–8

A Living Sacrifice

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Matthew 16:13–20

Peter’s Confession of Christ

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

SERMON: “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?”

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

Go out to be the church, a faithful, faith filled people. May our actions reflect the faith we confess.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Frances R. Havergal

Henri A.C. Malan; Arr. by Dave Cleveland

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only, for my King,
Always, only, for my King.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy Royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my heart, it is thy own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARD SHOWER: **Robert Wentz** will be 90 years old on August 26. Robert was a former Sunday School teacher and a faithful member of St. Davids but is no longer able to attend worship services. Send Robert a card to help him celebrate his 90th birthday and to let him know that his church family remembers and cares for him. Robert's address: *Robert Wentz, 1525 E. Deep Run Road, Westminster, Maryland 21158*

GRIEFSHARE: August 18 and 25; September 1 and 8; 6:45 PM in the Grove.

SMARTCHURCH APP: SmartChurch is no longer available. Church communication will still be available on the website, Facebook and via email. Thank you.

CARING FOR OUR OWN OFFERING (Month of August): We want to extend our church family's compassion and care by lending a helping hand to our church members in time of need. Thank you for your donations.

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.

HYMN HISTORIES

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation.” Taken from the Latin monastic hymn “Urbs beata Jerusalem,” dating between the sixth and seventh centuries, the original Latin was written for the dedication of a church, appearing in a manuscript printed in Daniel, *Thesaurus Hymnologicus I* with a Roman Brevary text. The hymn was translated by John Mason Neale. Neale's first version translated the two parts of the Latin text as a single hymn for his 1851 publication cited above. He divided it into two for the *Hymnal Noted Part I* (1852), the first part becoming “Blessed City, heavenly Salem,” and the second part being our hymn. The first hymn was to be sung at the Vigil in the monastic offices (night) with the second section sung at Lauds (dawn). The final stanza is a doxology that could be sung at both services. The original music was an unmetred, unaccompanied plainsong melody.

Effective singing translations are not easy to prepare. They are actually new hymns, though inspired by a text in another language. Neale was known as the “Prince of Translators,” and had no equal when it came to translating hymns. Neale was the son of an Anglican clergyman and entered Cambridge as an Evangelical but emerged an Anglo-Catholic.” He became intensely interested in the medieval church, which resulted in his interest in a “high church” rather than an “evangelical” perspective. Neale was an ordained Anglican priest but was unable to serve a parish due to his health. He was appointed a warden of a home for indigent old men but was not permitted to serve as a priest because he had alienated the hierarchy of the Anglican Church due to his

independent spirit regarding his beliefs and rigorous devotional practices. His minimal caretaker duties allowed Neale time to pursue his scholarly studies.

“Take My Life and Let It Be.” Frances Ridley Havergal was an English religious poet and hymn writer. She also wrote hymn melodies, religious tracts, and works for children. Havergal was born into an Anglican family, at Astley in Worcestershire. Her father, William Henry Havergal, was a clergyman, writer, composer, and hymn-writer. Her brother, Henry East Havergal, was a priest in the Church of England and an organist. In 1852 she studied in the Louisenschule, Düsseldorf, and at Oberkassel. Otherwise, she led a quiet life, not enjoying consistent good health; she traveled, in particular to Switzerland. She supported the Church Missionary Society.

Havergal wrote, "I went for a little visit of five days," explaining what prompted her to write her well-known hymn, "Take My Life and Let it Be." "There were ten persons in the house; some were unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. [God] gave me the prayer, 'Lord, give me all in this house.' And He just did. Before I left the house, everyone had got a blessing. The last night of my visit I was too happy to sleep and passed most of the night in renewal of my consecration, and those little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another till they finished with "ever only, ALL FOR THEE!" It was on this day, February 4, 1874, that Frances wrote the hymn that is still sung around the world.