

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

July 18, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rock of our salvation, we have accepted the invitation of Jesus to gather as Your beloved people. We have been far away from You in our thoughts and separated from You in much that we do. Now we are together, seeking reconciliation with You and one another. We call on Your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We feel Your compassion for us and for all Your children. We sense Your longing for our wholeness and renewed faith and trust. You call us to be saints and apostles and prophets. We are overwhelmed, even as You draw us close. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

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| 1) Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. | 3) Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. |
| 2) Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood
can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. | 4) Just as I am, thou wretched blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind.
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. |

CALL TO CONFESSION

Alienated from our spiritual selves, we come to this time of confession seeking wholeness amid a fragmented world. The false promises of a good life, filled with things, has erected barriers among us. There are dividing walls of hostility separating God's people. We are called to admit our role in this brokenness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all times and places, we confess that we have wandered after the false gods of this age. We have disobeyed Your commandments, violated Your covenant with us, and forsaken Your ways. We have denied our need for You and mistreated those whom You have called us to love. We have become strangers and aliens, plagued by false values that squeeze life from our souls. Hear the silent prayers of Your penitent children, and let us come home, we pray. ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. We are the church, God's forgiven and forgiving people, becoming a temple in which God is pleased to dwell.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 2:11–22

EPHESIANS 2:11–22

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to

those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: "All Hatred is From Satan"

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

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:

LEADER: You are no longer strangers to God's covenant, for you are citizens and saints.

PEOPLE: **We are God's holy temple, a dwelling place of the Spirit**

LEADER: God is creating a new humanity and uniting us with one another.

PEOPLE: **We will be peacemakers where we are and wherever our influence can reach.**

LEADER: Go in peace, with joy and gladness, for God will grant understanding and strength.

ALL: **We rejoice in our ministry and claim our citizenship in God's realm.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me"

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| <p>1) Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.</p> | <p>3) Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.</p> |
| <p>2) Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.</p> | <p>4) While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.</p> |
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