

**ST. DAVID's (Sherman's) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 16, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Guide us, O God, to find those leaders who will direct us to the way of discipleship. Make us like trees, planted by streams of living water, absorbing Your testimony and living by Your trust. Grant us now Your Word that we may be sanctified and kept in Your name. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Draw Me Nearer"

(Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Tune: William H. Doane) (Public Domain)

- 1) I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

- 2) Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine. **[Refrain]**
- 3) Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God
I commune as friend with friend! **[Refrain]**

4) There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee. **[Refrain]**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee, The Opossum

CALL TO CONFESSION

Each of us is allotted a ministry only we can carry out. When we betray this trust and turn aside to pursue our own limited agendas, who will share the story only we can tell? Who will testify to the God who gives us life through Jesus Christ?

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pour out our prayer of confession. We have been called together into the church to live the resurrection faith, to embody Easter and touch lives as Jesus did. We have not done this well. Our vision has been narrow and limited. Our testimony has been timid and self-protective. We listen to the wrong advisors and complain when things do not go our way. Forgive our limited commitment and low expectations that deny the Body of Christ as the strong force for good that we are meant to be. Help us rediscover the delight and joy of full commitment. Hear our personal confessions ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God hears our prayers and forgives. No longer are we like chaff that the wind drives away. We are not numbered among the wicked who have no place in the congregation of the righteous. As forgiven and forgiving sinners, let us embrace our chosenness and live up to our calling.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 1, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law, day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

ACTS 1:15-17

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

ACTS 1:21-26

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of

these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

SERMON: "The Will of 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, forever. AMEN

BENEDICTION

Be guided by God's word, that you may bear good fruit.

Pray for God's guidance that you may love in word and deed. Delight in God's law and share God's love as disciples of the risen Christ.

CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus Shall Reign, Where'er the Sun"

(Author: Isaac Watts (1719); Tune: DUKE STREET) (Public Domain)

- 1) Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does His successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2) For him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.
- 3) People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

4) Blessings abound where'er He reigns:

The prisoner leaps to lose His chains,

The weary find eternal rest,

And all the sons of want are blest.

5) Let every creature rise and bring

Peculiar honors to our King,

Angels descend with songs again,

And earth repeat the loud Amen.
