

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

**November 14, 2021**

**8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

**WORDS TO PONDER**

Provoke one another to love and good works.

**WELCOME**

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** Come, let us present ourselves before our God. Bring all your troubles and anxiety to God on prayer.

**PEOPLE:** **Surely God knows our thoughts and hears our prayers. We find strength for living as we praise God.**

**LEADER:** Lay down your arrogance and false pride. Admit your needs as you seek God's favor.

**PEOPLE:** **We pour out our souls before the living God.**

**LEADER:** God grants our petitions and gives us peace. The counsel of our God gladdens our hearts.

**UNISON:** **In God's presence there is fullness of joy. As we meet together, we are encouraged and comforted.**

**OPENING HYMN:** "Rock of Ages"

Authors: Augustus M. Toplady, Thomas Hastings. Tune Name: TOPLADY  
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**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 pow'r.

**2)** Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

**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.

**4)** While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids 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.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**God, speak to us in our dark days, when the heavens are shaken and our lives are in turmoil. Lift among us a vision of Your glory. Before Your vast power, we bow in awe and reverence. Grant that this hour may turn our thoughts and actions in new directions. AMEN**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Come away from all evil that holds you in its grasp. Awaken to God's word that convicts and challenges. Lay aside the burdens of your mistakes and failures. Seek the cleansing power God's own messenger provides to those who pray for pardon and deliverance.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we are frightened when we step back to view our sin. We do not understand how there could be so much evil in what we do and say. Your way has been evident to us, but we have not followed it. Let not the fires of Your wrath consume us, or Your judgment fall heavily on our heads. Have compassion on us, in the name of Jesus Christ, whose return to our lives we await with eager longing.**

### **A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION**

### **UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was the perfect offering, given to take away our sin. God forgives and forgets the wrong we have done and grants new**

**opportunities for doing good. May we join the multitudes who praise God without ceasing.**

**HOLY SCRIPTURES:** Hebrews 10:11–25

### **HEBREWS 10:11–25**

<sup>11</sup> Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

<sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First, he says:

<sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

<sup>17</sup> Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

<sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

### **A Call to Persevere in Faith**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **CHILDREN’S STORYTIME**

**SERMON:** “Contagious Kindness”

## **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**

## **UNISON BENEDICTION**

**There is a word for us in every situation. God is always ready to guide our decisions. We are learning to encourage our sisters and brothers. We seek to provoke one another to good deeds. Love for one another will be our highest motive.**

## **CLOSING HYMN: "Blessed Assurance"**

Words by Fanny J. Crosby; Music by Phoebe Palmer Knapp;  
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| <b>1)</b> Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!<br>Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!<br>Heir of salvation, purchase of God,<br>Born of His Spirit, washed in His<br>blood. | <b>2)</b> Perfect submission, perfect delight,<br>Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;<br>Angels, descending, bring from above<br>Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.<br><b>[Refrain]</b> |
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## **REFRAIN:**

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

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| <b>3)</b> Perfect submission, all is at rest,<br>I in my Savior am happy and blest,<br>Watching and waiting, looking above,<br>Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.<br><b>[Refrain]</b> |
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