

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

September 12, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Reigning God, whom we have glimpsed in creation and in the life of One who shared our common lot, help us to acknowledge the Messiah, not in empty words, but in self-emptying service that risks life for the sake of love. May we come to be so attuned to Your precepts that the songs of our hearts become a contagious attraction, transforming the groups of which we are a part. AMEN

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

**People: "The heavens are telling the glory of God."  
"The firmament proclaims God's handiwork."**

Pastor: How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?  
How long will we ignore God's counsel?

**People: "The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul."  
"The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple."**

Pastor: Our waywardness separates us from God.  
Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

**Unison: We gather to renew our relationship with God.  
We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.**

OPENING HYMN: *JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT* (172 NCH)

Author: Cecil F. Alexander; Tune: GALILEE; Composer: William H. Jude

This hymn is in the Public Domain

1) Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult  
Of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day that voice still calls us,  
Saying, "Christian, follow me."

- 2) As of old, Saint Andrew heard it  
By the Galilean Lake,  
Turned from home and toil and kindred,  
Leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3) Jesus calls us from the worship  
Of the treasures we adore,  
From each idol that would keep us,  
Saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 4) In our joys and in our sorrows,  
Days of toil and hours of ease,  
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 5) Jesus calls us! By your mercies,  
Savior, may we hear Your call,  
Give our hearts to Your obedience,  
Serve and love You best of all.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator. Shutting out eyes and ears to God becomes a habit we cannot break in time of desperation. That is why, together, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around, letting God's Word reach our hearts. May God hear our prayers.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge You offer and the relationship with us that You desire. We make light of Your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. Hear our prayers...**

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

### **UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Words of confession are not enough to break the patterns of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God. Thankfully, our Creator knows our honest intent. If we truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. In keeping God's ordinances, there is unexpected reward. All thanks to our God.**

**HOLY SCRIPTURES:** Psalm 19, Proverbs 1:20–33, Mark 8:27–38

#### **PSALM 19**

**For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

- <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- <sup>2</sup>Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup>They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.
- <sup>4</sup>Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- <sup>5</sup>It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- <sup>6</sup>It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.
- <sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.
- <sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

<sup>10</sup>They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup>By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup>Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

### **PROVERBS 1:20-33**

#### **Wisdom's Rebuke**

<sup>20</sup>Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,  
she raises her voice in the public square;

<sup>21</sup>on top of the wall she cries out,  
at the city gate she makes her speech:

<sup>22</sup>"How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?  
How long will mockers delight in mockery  
and fools hate knowledge?

<sup>23</sup>Repent at my rebuke!  
Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,  
I will make known to you my teachings.

<sup>24</sup> But since you refuse to listen when I call  
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,  
<sup>25</sup> since you disregard all my advice  
and do not accept my rebuke,  
<sup>26</sup> I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;  
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—  
<sup>27</sup> when calamity overtakes you like a storm,  
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,  
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

<sup>28</sup> “Then they will call to me but I will not answer;  
they will look for me but will not find me,  
<sup>29</sup> since they hated knowledge  
and did not choose to fear the LORD.  
<sup>30</sup> Since they would not accept my advice  
and spurned my rebuke,  
<sup>31</sup> they will eat the fruit of their ways  
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.  
<sup>32</sup> For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,  
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;  
<sup>33</sup> but whoever listens to me will live in safety  
and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

## **MARK 8:27-38**

### **Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

## **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

## **The Way of the Cross**

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

## **CHILDREN'S STORYTIME**

**SERMON:** "Who Do You Say?"

## **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**

## **RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Let your words this week proclaim God's love.

**People: We seek to let God guide our tongues.  
We want to speak without arrogance or false pride.**

Pastor: Listen for the wisdom God wants you to know.  
Seek God's counsel and reproof each day.

**People: We will look for God in the midst of creation.  
We will seek God's face in the people around us.**

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
God's hand is outstretched to touch and heal you.

**Unison: How good it is to sense God's guidance!  
How exciting it is to follow where Christ leads!**

## **CLOSING HYMN: "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS," THE SAVIOR SAID (NCH 204)**

Charles W. Everest, 1883; alt. TUNE: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.  
Grenoble Antiphoner, 1753. This hymn is in the Public Domain.

- 1) "Take up your cross," the Savior said,  
"If you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after me."
- 2) Take up your cross; let not its weight  
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up  
And brace your heart, support your arm.
- 3) Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
And let your foolish pride be still;  
For Christ did not refuse to die  
Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
- 4) Take up your cross and follow Christ.  
Nor think till death to lay it down.  
For only those who bear the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.