

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, we rejoice in Your wonderful works, in miracles You have caused among us, and in the wealth You have entrusted to our stewardship. You have called us to important work in Your vineyard. Wherever we go, we represent Your church and interpret Your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in Your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light You have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to be fed by Your word today.

AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to a manner of life worthy of the gospel, a life in which love abounds more and more, a life filled with the fruits of righteousness. Because we have a deep sense of our failure to be pure and blameless, we come in humble awe before the One who lived such a life among the likes of us and today can put us in touch with the Eternal. Let us confess our faults.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the name of Jesus Christ, whom we have so often failed to honor in our bodies, we come to confess our corporate and individual guilt. We have been jealous and competitive workers in Your vineyard, far more concerned with personal reward than with accomplishing the tasks You set before us. We forget Your generosity to us and resent what others receive. Rather than standing side by side for the faith of the gospel, we pursue our separate goals and turn away from true partnership. We even try to create our own little gods. Forgive us, O God, turn us from our grumbling and restore us to fruitful labor and joy in the faith. Hear our silent prayers and petition.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is understandably angry with our pursuit of lesser gods and our resentment of coworkers. We are a “stiff necked people” who deserve to be destroyed. But God, in abundant mercy and forgiveness, offers a new start and fresh hope. Let us rejoice in our salvation!

HOLY SCRIPTURES:

EXODUS 16:2–15

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will

see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?”

⁸ Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

⁹ Then, Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning, you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

JONAH 3:10 to 4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah’s Anger at the LORD’s Compassion

^{4:1} But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant^[a] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which

chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

PHILIPPIANS 1:21–30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SERMON: "Worthy Living"

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.

BENEDICTION

Let your manner of living be worthy of the gospel.
Let your prayers and conversations be filled with joy and thanksgiving.
Share good news with others by what you do and say.

CLOSING HYMN: “Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

O refresh us, O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound:
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Thy truth may we be found.

Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Thy truth may we be found.

Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Thy truth may we be found.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE-A-WISH TRUCK CONVOY TODAY: Prayers for Todd Bankert and all the participants in the Make-a-Wish Truck Convoy today.

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Grove building.

GRIEFSHARE: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. Please share with family members and friends who are experiencing a time of grief.

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: Throughout September

This offering, in memory of our former pastor, Revd. Harvey M. Light, will be used to support a seminary student pursuing a degree in Christian theology. Your donations may be given to Linda Huggens after church services or mailed to our treasurer, Harley Hartman at 2195 Black Rock Road, Hanover, PA 17331. Please indicate that the funds are for the Lancaster Seminary offering. Thank you for your donations!

WORLDWIDE COMMUNION: Drive-Thru Communion will be held following the Worship service on **Sunday, October 4** for Worldwide Communion.

ALL SAINTS DAY: All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1. We will celebrate the saints who have been called to their eternal home in the last year. If you have a family member or friend that you would like to have remembered, please contact the church office at 717-637-2299 by October 25.

CANNED CORN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY DINNERS: New Hope Ministries will be providing food packets for delicious Thanksgiving meals for area guests and their families in Hanover this Thanksgiving. We have pledged to help by providing **200 cans of corn** for the dinners. Please have your donations to the church by **Sunday, November 8**. We can help to make Thanksgiving a happy and healthy one for our local neighbors. Thank you for your contributions!

POTATO HARVESTING: A GREAT BIG Thank you to the Utz family for allowing us to plant 400 pounds of seed potatoes, peppers donated by Lehigh's greenhouse and tomatoes donated by Pleasant Hill Garden Center on their property earlier this summer. Thank you to the many volunteers who worked throughout the summer planting, keeping the weeds down, hilling the potatoes and harvesting the crops. The families that participated in the Summer Lunch Program were beneficiaries of the early produce, and so far, 144 pounds of potatoes have been distributed. We may have potatoes to sell so we can have seed money for the project next spring. Please check with Pastor Scott if you are interested in making a contribution to this mission project of the church.

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.

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS: If you would like to mail your offerings to the church, please mail them to Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 and include one offering envelope indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David's!

HACC NEEDS:

PAL: Cooking spray, Egg Noodles, Cream of Chicken Soup, Canned Fresh Carrots, Dish Detergent, Salad Dressing, Ziplock Sandwich Bags, Black Pepper.

Clothing Bank: Adult Toiletries.

Changing Lives Shelter: Volunteers Needed 4 PM – 7 PM, Deodorant, Feminine Products, Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitizing Wipes w/Bleach.

Ruth's Harvest: Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (All Single Serve Containers).

Donations Accepted Monday to Friday, 8 AM – 12:30 PM, Saturdays, 8 AM – 11 AM or by Appointment (Call 717-633-6353 to schedule a drop-off time).

September PAL Date: September 26; No September Clothing Bank Date

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

The Pleasant Hill Fire Hall will be having a Food Event & Vendor Fair on **Friday, September 25 & Saturday September 26**. Friday will be a food event only and from 4 pm to 8 pm. The Vendor Fair will be held on Saturday from 12 pm to 6 pm, & the food event will be from 12 pm to 8 pm.

The Story Behind “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

The author of this popular hymn is William Williams (1717-1791), born in Wales, to John and Dorothy Williams. According to Welsh hymn scholar Alan Luff, Williams grew up as an Independent and later a Calvinist, but had no intentions to be a minister.

In 1744, after being accused of various misdemeanors against the Church of England, Williams devoted himself to Methodism. The hymn text was written soon after this in 1745. While it is still a mystery as to why Williams began composing hymn-texts in his native tongue, *United Methodist Hymnal* editor Dr. Carlton Young states that he became known as the most famous hymn writer of Welsh Methodism. Elements of the hardship Williams experienced as a traveling minister can be found throughout “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”

Williams beautifully uses imagery from the Old Testament book of Exodus to conjure a theme of God’s guidance through struggle. One of the reasons this hymn has influenced such a broad array of congregants is the universal subject of hardship.

The Story Behind “Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

Attributed to John Fawcett. An orphan at the age of twelve, John Fawcett (b. Lidget Green, Yorkshire, England, 1740; d. Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, 1817) became apprenticed to a tailor and was largely self-educated. He was converted by the preaching of George Whitefield at the age of sixteen and began preaching soon thereafter. In 1765 Fawcett was called to a small, poor, Baptist country church in Wainsgate, Yorkshire. Seven years later he received a call from the large and influential Carter's Lane Church in London, England. Fawcett accepted the call and preached his farewell sermon. The day of departure came, and his family's belongings were loaded on carts, but the distraught congregation begged him to stay. In *Singers and Songs of the Church* (1869), Josiah Miller tells the story associated with this text:

This favorite hymn is said to have been written in 1772, to commemorate the determination of its author to remain with his attached people at Wainsgate. The farewell sermon was preached, the wagons were loaded, when love and tears prevailed, and Dr. Fawcett sacrificed the attraction of a London pulpit to the affection of his poor but devoted flock.

Fawcett continued to serve in Wainsgate and in the nearby village of Hebden Bridge for the remainder of his active ministry. (Bert Polman)

TUNE: SICILIAN MARINERS

SICILIAN MARINERS is traditionally used for the Roman Catholic Marian hymn "O Sanctissima." According to tradition, Sicilian seamen ended each day on their ships by singing this hymn in unison. The tune probably traveled from Italy to Germany to England, where *The European Magazine* and *London Review* first published it in 1792.