

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

March 13, 2022



***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Presiding: Amy Haynes

We gather in faith as a Christ-infused church

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship.)

SEED OF MEDITATION

The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?

- Dorothy Day

PRELUDE *Prelude on Psalm 34 v 6*

Herbert Howells

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles

Bruce Clark – Organ

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Beloved gathers us under Her wings,

longing to protect us from violence.

The Beloved stays up with us all night,

She holds us close when we are afraid.

Mothering God, victims of violence need protection!

Shield us from forces of domination.

Lead us into a life of mutual care.

Come, let us worship the Holy, our Guard and our Guide.

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate Advocate, there are so many we long to protect -- victims of war, trans children, animals seeking safety in climate collapse. We long for a world where women have equality and safety and your Black, brown, and Indigenous children's lives are held as sacred. We long for workers to be protected from exploitation. We yearn for enterprises and organizations perpetuating abuse to crumble. Teach us Your ways of resistance and liberation. Bless our righteous anger towards the work of your kin-dom. May it be so. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising VU #329*

- 1 *O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising,
in every city for your love and care;
inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
that your blest Spirit rouses everywhere.*
- 2 *Grant us new courage, sacrificial, humble,
strong in your strength to venture and to dare;
to lift the fallen, guide the feet that stumble,
seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.*
- 3 *Show us your Spirit, brooding o'er each city,
as you once wept above Jerusalem,
seeking to gather all in love and pity,
and healing those who touch your garment's hem.*

LENTEN LITANY

When loved ones experience pain and suffering,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When illness, aging, or chronic pain diminish our joy,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When doubts arise and confusion fills our minds,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When others fail us or refuse to forgive us for our failings,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When we stumble and stray from the path of goodness,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When death separates us from those we love dearly,

Remind us that your love is with us.

When financial problems threaten our security,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When depression or loneliness returns, again and again,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When broken relationships seem unmendable,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When our faith strengthens and gives us courage,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When the precious gift of life is recognized and appreciated,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When unexpected kindness and caring comes our way,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When optimism stirs in our hearts and springtime returns,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When the peace of Christ calms our anxiety and softens our sadness,
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When we realize that our loving presence can make a difference.
Remind us that your love is with us.
 When the joy of Easter permeates our hearts,
Remind us that your love is with us.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 27, Luke 13:31-35

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

“Sanctus” from ‘Missa Brevis’ G. P. da Palestrina
Translation: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

REFLECTION

ANTHEM Brother James’ Air arr. Gordon Jacob

POEM/PRAYER

HYMN *We Are Pilgrims* VU #595
 1 *We are pilgrims on a journey,
 fellow travellers on the road;
 we are here to help each other
 walk the mile and bear the load.*

- 2 *Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*
- 3 *I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*
- 4 *I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.*
- 5 *When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*
- 6 *Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Precious Holy One,

A brief look at the news shouts out that there are many dark places in our world.

Darkness through mindless violence

Darkness through frustration and horror

Darkness through grief and distress

Darkness through pain and disease

Darkness deep in the souls of those we love...

(prayers for the blessed community led by Amy)

Holy One
into these dark places
into those unnamed dark places
into the darkness of fear and loneliness
pour out your radiance
shower down your light
break through with pure brilliance
**until the darkness is dispelled
and our hearts find peace
and the light of hope
can shine forth again
fresh and new with this new day**
hear our prayers we pray and be near us as we pray the prayer taught
to all disciples of your way...

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS AND COMMISSIONING

CLOSING HYMN *May God's Sheltering Wings (x2)* *MV #214*
*May God's sheltering wings,
Her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
Her cradling arms sustain you,
And hold you in her love,
And hold you in her love.*

BENEDICTION (Spoken and Sung) A Clare Benediction - John Rutter

POSTLUDE "Andante Religioso" from ' Organ Sonata No. 4'
Felix Mendelssohn

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Scripture Reader.....Margie Oakander
Music.....Chamber Choir
PSALT & Tech Team
Sacred Service Team

COVER ART

Artist: Lauren Wright Pittman

Year: 2018, USA

"The image of Christ as a mother hen is revolutionary. Instead of using a hypermasculine, militaristic, menacing image in response to Herod's death threats, Jesus upends the expected posture of violence and chooses to identify with the nurturing, protective, feminine image of a mother hen. He explains his love for Jerusalem as a mother hen who desperately desires to lovingly shelter her young. This image drips of rejection, however, because the chicks are unwilling to be protected. In Jesus' attempt to love the world he meets unwillingness, distrust, mockery, and violence.

Jesus' use of this simile is wonderfully subversive because at first it seems like a harmless, warm, and fuzzy kind of reference—a cuddly, plump mother hen wanting to snuggle her young—but mother hens will protect their young at all cost. A mother hen will put her whole body on the line to keep her chicks safe; if danger nears, she will meet it head on, striking with her beak, with claws raised high.

Jesus wants that fox (Herod) to know that death threats will not keep him from fiercely bringing healing and restoration to the world."