

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

March 20, 2022



Title: Parable of the Fruitless Fig Tree
Artist: Alexey Pismenny, United States
Year: 2008

***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

"Grace is available for each of us every day – our spiritual daily bread – but we've got to remember to ask for it with a grateful heart and not worry about whether there will be enough for tomorrow."

- Sarah Ban Breathnach

PRELUDE Improvisation

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

**So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,
and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

INTROIT *Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Taize

OPENING PRAYER (by Black Elk)

Grandfather, Great Mysterious One,
You have always been, and before You, nothing has been.
There is nothing to pray to but You.
The star nations all over the universe are Yours,
And Yours are the grasses of the earth.
Day in and day out, You are the life of things.
You are older than all need,
Older than all pain and prayer.
Grandfather, all over the world, the faces of the living ones are alike.
In tenderness, they have come up out of the ground.
Look lovingly upon Your children with children in their arms,
That they may face the winds,
And walk the good road to the day of quiet.
Teach me to walk the soft earth,
A relative to all that lives.
Sweeten my heart and fill me with light,
And give me the strength to understand and the eyes to see.
Help me, for, without You, I am nothing. Amen.

OPENING HYMN Come, Let Us to the God of Love

VU #653

- 1 *Come, let us to the God of love with contrite hearts return:
our God is gracious, nor will leave the desolate to mourn.*
- 2 *God's voice commands the tempest forth, and stills the stormy wave;
and though God's arm be strong to smite, 'tis also strong to save.*
- 3 *Long has the night of sorrow reigned, the dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise with gladness at that sight.*
- 4 *As dew upon the tender herb diffusing fragrance round,
as showers that usher in the spring and cheer the thirsty ground,*
- 5 *so shall God's presence bless our souls and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away the sorrows of the night.*

LENTEN LITANY

From the belief that I have to earn your love,
Deliver me, Love Incarnate.

From the fear that I am unlovable,
Deliver me, Son of a Woman.

From the false security that I have what it takes,
Deliver me, Ageless One.

From the fear that trusting you will leave me more destitute,
Deliver me, Sheltering God.

From all suspicion of Your words and promises,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike dependency on you,
Deliver me, Sovereign One.

From refusals and reluctances in accepting your will,
Deliver me, Faithful One.

From anxiety about the future,
Deliver me, Brother and Saviour.

From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past,
Deliver me, Mother of All.

From restless self-seeking in the present moment,
Deliver me, Divine Wisdom.

From disbelief in Your love and presence,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being asked to give more than I have,
Deliver me, Fire of Sinai.

From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth,
Deliver me, Healing Holy One.

From the fear of what love demands
Deliver me, Womb of Life.

From discouragement,
Deliver me, Righteous God.

That you are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me,
Jesus, I trust in you.

That your love goes deeper than my sins and failings and transforms me,
Wellspring of Life, I trust in you.

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on you,
Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are with me in my suffering,
Stitcher of Galaxies, I trust in you.

That my suffering united to your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next,
Redeemer, I trust in you.

That you will not leave me orphaned, that you are present in your Church,
Woman-Born, I trust in you.

That your plan is better than anything else,
Living God, I trust in you.

That you always hear me and in your goodness always respond to me,
Ancient of Days, I trust in you.

That you give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others,
Exalted One, I trust in you.

That you give me all the strength I need for what is asked,
Majesty of the Heavens, I trust in you.

That my life is a gift,
Abba Father, I trust in you.

That you will teach me to trust you,
Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are my Lord and my God,
Mother of Wisdom, I trust in you.

That I am your beloved one,
Eternal God, I trust in you.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8 (VU p. 781, refrain 2), Luke 13:1-9

REFLECTION

ANTHEM Immortal Love, Forever Full
John Greenleaf Whittier & Eugene Butler

POEM/READING

HYMN **Come, We That Love the Lord** **VU #714**
1 Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord,

join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad. R

3 The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. R

4 Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. R

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God,
whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,
who long to know your presence but don't know where to find You.
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,
those who long to feel needed and loved,
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

O healing river,
pour down your waters, and heal your people.

We pray for all who are physically thirsty,
who don't have enough water to drink or feed their animals,
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,
or who have to be content with unclean water.
We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart
because of drought or famine.

O healing river,
pour down your waters, and heal your people.

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans;
those who are working to find clean water,
and make it available to those who need it.

O healing river,
pour down your waters, and heal your people.

God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.
Give us courage to work together for justice,
to stand alongside those who are thirsty,
so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear
and may discover the abundant life you promise to each one.
In the name of Jesus Christ—the source of living water—we pray. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

VU #960

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 trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom and the
Power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSIONING/AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

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

POSTLUDE Improvisation

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Scripture Reader.....Eileen Ladd
Music.....Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....Garrett Krause
PSALT & Tech Team
Sacred Service Team