

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

February 20, 2022



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

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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February 20, 2022
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

"Helped are those who forgive; their reward shall be forgetfulness of every evil done to them. It will be in their power, therefore, to envision the new Earth.

-Alice Walker

PRELUDE *Improvisation*

WELCOME AND GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The enemy:

love them

The oppressor:

walk the mile with them

The Master:

turn the other cheek to them

This doormat faith

seems too much to bear

**in a world where those who hold power
always seem to win**

The enemy:

imbalance them with love

The oppressor:

shame the law that oppresses

The Master:

turn the cheek as an equal

This rebellious faith

seems too much to bear

in a world where those who oppress

must be fiercely loved and called to account,

led back to justice by the oppressed

But this is heaven's revolution

and we are called into it

come let us worship

love's rebel, Jesus

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Jesus,

You call us into a life that others mock and have told us is easy, but it is not.

You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies,

to bless those who curse us.

We want the easy way,

but You have given us the hard path.

Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You,

to allow ourselves at times to stumble,

to live into the hard way

so that we might fully experience

Your love, grace and peace in this world,

by becoming a people full of love and grace

and forgiving others.

Let us see ourselves and our neighbours with clarity, humility, and compassion.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

If I Have Been the Source of Pain

MV #76

If I have been the source of pain, O God;

If to the weak I have refused my strength;

If, in rebellion, I have strayed away;

Forgive me, God.

If I have spoken words of cruelty;

If I have left some suffering unrelieved;

Condemn not my insensitivity;

Forgive me, God.

If I've insisted on a peaceful life,

Far from the struggles that the gospel brings,

When you prefer to guide me to the strife,

Forgive me, God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TEACHING

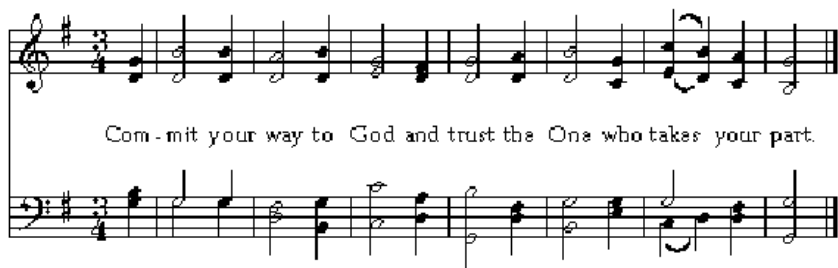
ANTHEM *Hymn to Freedom* Oscar Peterson and Harriette Hamilton/
arr. Paul Read

SCRIPTURE Psalm 37 Sung/Spoken VU pg 763; Luke 6:27-38;

Psalm 37

Refrain

New Harmony of Zion 1764



Do not fret because of the wicked, or envy those who do evil.

For they soon wither like grass and fade away like the green leaf.

Trust in God and do good;

dwelt in the land and there find safe pasture.

Find your delight in God,

who will grant the desires of your heart. R

God will make your vindication shine like the light,

the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Be still before God and wait patiently;

do not fret because some prosper in evil schemes.

Let go of anger and abandon wrath.

Do not fret - it can only do harm. R

Those who do evil shall be cut off,

but those who look to God shall inherit the earth.

In a little while the wicked will be no more;

you will look where they were and their place will be empty.

But the meek shall inherit the earth;

they shall enjoy fullness of peace.

Salvation for the righteous comes from God, their refuge in time of trouble.

**God helps and delivers,
and rescues from the wicked those who seek shelter. R**

REFLECTION

HYMN

Creator God You Gave Us Life

MV #27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery

In every flow'r and every tree, we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity. R

When with our hearts, our hands our minds, we share gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God. R

OFFERTORY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kum by yah and prayers for the community by Amy
(pause for reflection and silent prayer)

Mother of us all, we call upon you in Jesus' name.

We come with empty hands.

We have not been able to love our enemies.

As a rule, we have never even seen them.

We have avoided them.

When we saw them, we felt only fear and anger, not love.

**So we come to you, not as the children of your love,
but as the enemy of our enemies,
beseeching you for ourselves and all the others;**

**Bless those who curse you,
do good to those who hate you.
Forgive us for what we have failed to do for our enemies.**

**You lead us out of the constriction of fear
and out of the prison of hate,**

into the wide space of freedom.
Let us see your sun,
which rises upon the evil and the good,
and rejoice in its warmth, together with our enemies. Amen.

DISCIPLES' PRAYER

Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be
enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and
heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have
harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the
hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS AND COMMISSIONING

CLOSING HYMN *Draw the Circle Wide*

MV #145

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side
Draw the circle wide.

God the still point of the circle,
round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. R

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. R

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. R

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

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

Music.....Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....Garrett Krause

*Cover Artwork: Reconciliation by Amos Supuni