

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, October 13, 2019



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

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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VALUE OF THE MONTH: Generosity

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Presiding: Peggy McDonagh

A Worship Gathering of Thanksgiving Celebrating Generosity

We Gather as a Christ Infused Community of Faith

(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.)

PRELUDE

*Offertoire in B Flat Major
Andante with Variations*

*Alexandre Guilmant
Felix Mendelssohn*

PRE- WORSHIP INVITATION

As we prepare for worship today, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the unique gifts that you bring to this community of worship. Maybe you bring your best singing voice, or perhaps your unabashed love for God. Maybe you bring a generous financial donation, or perhaps the gift of time spent tidying up the pews after service. Maybe you share the gifts of institutional memory, or perhaps the gift of first steps and spontaneous giggles.

What do you have to share?

Take a moment to write this down on the note paper provided for you. You will have opportunities to share these thoughts during our time of worship.

OPENING HYMN Now Thank We All Our God

VU #236

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Today we light the Christ candle to symbolize the Christ light that resides within each of us, and to remind us that we are to live our lives with generous and thankful hearts.

***INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

We all have gifts.

We all have something to share.

All: The world needs what we have to give.

We share what we have.

We share who we are.

All: And we do it all for the sake of renewed life.

All gifts come from God.

Let us worship God with our abundant gifts!

All: (Call out the gift you wrote on your paper either aloud or in the silence of your heart.)

Let us enter this welcoming and generous community –

**All: Giving thanks –
to one another
to all creation
and to the Creator of All!**

***PRAYER**

Holy One, this day and each day, we thank you,
for the abundance of food, grace, love and friendship
that bless our lives,

**for the generosity shown to us each day
through kindnesses expressed, forgiveness given,
and unconditional love shown.**

We welcome your holy disruption today!

**We long for your compassionate presence to be in
our midst.**

We dream of a world of justice and peace.

We work to build a kin-dom of loving connection.

**May we be inspired to be reflections of your generosity and
goodness in our lives and communities.**

Today we open our hearts in thanksgiving.

Empower us and bless us, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Thank You, God

AGCS #25

Thank you, God for giving us life.

Thank you, God for giving us life,

Right where we are.

Alleluia, praise our God. Alleluia, praise our God.

Alleluia, praise our God right where we are.

Thank you, God for giving us love.

Thank you, God for giving us love,

Right where we are.

Alleluia, praise our God. Alleluia, praise our God.

Alleluia, praise our God right where we are.

***FORGIVENESS PRAYER**

Generous God, we seek forgiveness

**Right Side: For all the times we have turned away from an
opportunity to be generous;**

**Left Side: For all the times we have believed in
hopelessness, in isolation or in despair more than we have
believed in you;**

**Right Side: For all the times we have chosen timidity over
bold witness;**

**Left Side: For all the times we have failed to live into the
awesomeness of the gifts you have given us.**

**All: May your unconditional acceptance inspire us to be
courageous enough to forgive each other and help us to
forgive ourselves. (Silent prayer) Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** Lamentations 3:22-23

"Holy God, your steadfast love never ceases. We thank you that your mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness." We are accepted for who we are, forgiven and free.

HYMN Spirit of Life

VU #381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

We hear the Wisdom of God through words and music

READINGS 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Mark 12: 38-44; Acts 2:26-27;

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

arranged & adapted by Philip Stopford

REFLECTION

"Generosity: A Heart Condition"

HYMN For the Fruit of All Creation

VU #227

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

We respond. . .

PEACE GREETING

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And with you also.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR SYMBOLS OF GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6 "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Each of us has given many blessings, as well. May the giving and receiving be a constant sign of God's grace, in this community of faith, and beyond. Our symbols of generosity will now be received, and I invite you also to put in the generosity plate the paper on which you have written some of your gifts. Let us give generously this morning.

OFFERTORY

O Clap Your Hands Together

Thomas Tomkins

RECEPTION OF OUR GENEROSITY AND DEDICATION HYMN

In Christ we gladly share our gifts
with all who come our way;
our mission is to show God's love
to those we meet each day.

Love is the action of the heart,
the time is right to dare;
our future must embrace new ways
to bless our church, and share.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

(Tune: VU #420)

(Text by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

Give thanks for life and all its wondrous days,
let go of fear that in our heart betrays
the joy of life, the blessings and the praise.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

When thanks become the gospel that we spread,
it lifts the shadows of our deepest dread;
with grateful hearts our lives are richly fed.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

A giving heart creates a warming light
of hope and freedom, born when life feels bright;

a thankful faith expands our inward sight.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

...and are blessed.

BENEDICTION
Stopford

Belfast Amen

Philip

POSTLUDE *Thanksgiving*

Richard Purvis

*Liturgy adapted from Thea L. Racelis, Minister, South Congregational Church of Middletown, Connecticut

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| <p>GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE</p> |
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| <p>October 20, 2019</p> |
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| <p>World Food Sunday</p> |
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| <p>Pop Gospel Music by the Sanctuary Choir</p> |
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**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Greeters..... | October Sacred Service Team |
| Ushers | October Sacred Service Team |
| Counters..... | Kerry Duncan McCartney & Bob Clare |
| Projection..... | PSALT Team |
| Reader..... | Heather Chubb Way |
| Music | Chamber Choir |

Have you ever wanted to bring your pets to Church?

Now is your chance!!

On **October 27**, St. David's is holding our annual **Blessing of the Animals Service**. We invite you to join us for this special worship service at **10:00 am**.

We encourage you to bring your pets to worship and have them blessed.

If your pet does not "play well with others," please bring a picture and we will say a blessing for it. Birds should be kept in cages. Dogs and cats should be kept on a leash or in their safe pet home or cage.

Please join us on this special day as we honor our faithful animals.

All are welcome to attend this unique and fun filled service.

