

Announcements – Dave

Good morning, and welcome to worship. It is good to see you! Today is the re-opening of our church, which is limited, obviously, but we are open.

To those of you who are here with us, you will no doubt find it to be a different experience, but we are grateful you are here.

For those of you who are continuing to worship with us online; thank you for joining with us.

If you would like to follow along here or at home with an outline of the service, please visit the church web site at shelbyvillefirstchristianchurch.com. Click on the tab labeled BULLETINS. At the BULLETINS page you can click on a pdf file to download to your device. That file contains the announcements, readings, joys and concerns, and other information.

If you are interested in attending the Prayer Walk for Justice this afternoon, here are the details –

It begins this afternoon at the Shelby County Board of Education Office at 3:30 p.m. If you want to arrive early in order to make a sign, that begins at 3:00 p.m. The walk will make four stops for prayer along the way, the final stop being at the old courthouse, where the march will end. The march will include people from local churches, city and county leaders, business owners, and first responders. Masks and social distancing will be required.

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of any kind of assistance, please let us know. We do not want anyone to be doing without.

Call to Worship – Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-11 – Dave

¹ *“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.*

² *For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if*

they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.

⁶ *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”*

⁷ *Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

⁸ *Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*

⁹ *Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,*

¹⁰ *and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

¹¹ *The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*

Graduate Recognition

This year’s graduates have faced a drastically changed world, and the last months of their school year saw many important events cancelled. We are sorry for what they lost, and we pray for their future, as they move on into a world that offers them many challenges. We have a slide show of graduates, of all ages, and we congratulate each of them – and all graduates – pray God’s blessings upon them.

Joys and Concerns – Dave

Please keep the following in your prayers –

Sunday, June 7, 2020

David Pilkinton will have knee replacement surgery on Friday.

Linda Johnson will have surgery in the coming weeks.

Wayne Ashby, who will have a procedure at Baptist East Hospital on Monday.

Kitty Harrod, Emme Harrod's grandmother, remains in Jewish Hospital, Louisville, in serious condition.

We congratulate Linda and Howard Griffith, who are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary today. Howard was serving the Mannington Christian Church in Mannington, West Virginia and had just graduated from Fairmont State. He preached the Sunday morning service and returned to Fairmont in time for their 2:30 wedding. Congratulations Linda and Howard!

Pastoral Prayer – ending with a prayer of Philip Melanchthon, an associate of Martin Luther– Dave

God, we gather this morning, with not a large crowd, but with open doors and the blessing of being here today. We wish that this would be always a place welcome, even and especially in times of uncertainty.

God, we have worked hard to make this a safe place – safe from illness, certainly, but safe in other ways as well. Safe for those who are fearful, safe for those who have been rejected, and safe for those who feel they have nowhere to belong.

God, we again pray for our world. How your heart must break for what has become of the world and the people you have created. I think of Jesus, gazing upon the city of Jerusalem, and saying, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.* You desire is to love us, and how often you are rejected by your own creation.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear where and how you are working. May what matters to you, matter to us. Help us to turn from our selfish and self-centered pursuits, and turn to Spirit and love-centered service.

God, lead us to mourn with those who mourn, and to weep with those who weep. Lead us to be merciful. Help us to be slow to judgment and quick to mercy. Help us, God, when we look upon others – especially those who are different from us – and see they in the way you see them. Help us to value and love everyone as you do.

As I say these words, Lord, I am well aware of the reality of falling short of every word I speak in this prayer. I cannot speak for others, but I will speak for myself, as express my

regret for a heart that is too often hard, a spirit that is too often closed off and cold, an attitude that is too quick to judge, and far too quick to react in fear. I will ask for forgiveness this and every day, I will thank you for the mercy of yesterday, of today, and for the mercy I know I will require tomorrow.

Offering now a prayer of Philip Melanchthon, and giving thanks for how the word of the past continue to speak to us today –

*O God, be present with us always,
dwell within our hearts.
With your light and your Spirit
guide our souls, our thoughts, and all our actions,
that we may teach your Word,
that your healing power may be in us
and in your church universal. Amen*

—Philip Melanchthon, 1497-1560

Song – Jordan and David – *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

Message – Dave

Message Title – *Nehemiah: Rebuilding Life – Living Together*

Scripture Reading – Nehemiah 5:6-13

⁶ *When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.*

⁷ *I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them*

⁸ *and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.*

⁹ *So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”*

¹⁰ *I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!*

¹¹ Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”

¹² “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.

¹³ I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Offering Meditation – Dave

We are not passing the offering plates today, which you might be glad to hear. You can, however, give your offering in any one of several ways. You can use online giving, and we can provide that information to you, you can leave your gift in the offering box as you exit, you can mail your gift, or you can deliver your gift to the church office.

As we have navigated these past three months, your continued and sacrificial giving has been a great blessing. Thank you very much.

Doxology – played, but no singing

Offertory Prayer – Dave

Lord, when we have food, help us to remember those who are hungry; when we have work, help us to remember the jobless; when we have a home, help us to remember those who are homeless; when we are without pain, help us to remember those who suffer; and in remembering help us to forsake any complacency and stir us to compassion. In the name of Christ we pray, amen.

Communion – Dave

For 12 Sundays we were not able to share communion together. It is still different, but we are here together. I will tell you that it brought me great comfort each week to know people were there watching, and that we were together, even though not in the same place. We are indeed the body of Christ, wherever we are.

Prayer for the bread and cup.
The Lord's Prayer

This we pray in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 those who 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. Amen.

*Words of institution – when Jesus met with his disciples for the Last Supper, he took the bread and broke it. As he broke it, he said, “this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.”
And he took the cup also and said, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Benediction – Dave

*Go now, to serve Christ and follow him.
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth, so that you may bear much fruit.
As you allow God to reshape your heart, and live in obedience to the law written within
you.
And may God center you in truth and steady your spirit.
May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will.
And may the Spirit teach you God's wisdom and fill you with songs of rejoicing.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.*

(Based on Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33. Written by Nathan Nettleton)