

Davis Street United Methodist Church
July 18, 2021 In-Person & Online Sunday Worship Service
(Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

Choral Call to worship- “Sanctuary”

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary, Lord for You

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary, Lord for You

Welcome & Announcements (Rev. Jane Brannock)

Call to Worship (Rev. Jane Brannock)

Leader: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—

People: members of God’s family, and brothers and sisters to one another.

Leader: There are no outsiders here among us,

People: no one has any special standing or bragging rights.

Leader: For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.

All: Let’s join together in worship!

Opening Prayer (Rev. Jane Brannock will lead the congregation.)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to You: through Jesus

**Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn (Kitty Anderson): “How Firm a Foundation” #529 UMH (vs 1 & 2)
WORDS: “K” in Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787**

**1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

Prayer of Illumination (Rev. Jane Brannock will lead the congregation.)

**O God, Your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than
purest honey. As we turn to Your Scripture, send Your Holy Spirit to
infuse Your Word with truth and grace — so that the good news of
Your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses ... so
that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading (Rev. Jane Brannock) Ephesians 2:11-22 New Revised
Standard Version**

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also

members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Message (Pastor Edgar)

Special Music: "I Commit My Love To You" By: Twila Paris

**If by love, we show the world
That we are His disciples
I can't take it lightly
I commit my love to you
I will tear down all the walls
I built with my selfish pride
And I will crucify it
I commit my love to you**

**'Cause when we are divided
I can hear Him crying
And I can't be a part of breaking His heart anymore
I can't do it anymore
So brother, I commit my love to you**

**If you have offended me
You know you are forgiven
And I will not remember
I commit my love to you
I will see the best in all you do
And I will defend you
When they come against you
I commit my love to you**

**'Cause when we are divided
I can hear Him crying
And I can't be a part of breaking His heart anymore
I can't do it anymore
So brother, I commit my love to you**

Prayers of the People (Pastor Edgar)

Merciful God, we celebrate the way that You chose to bring unity and reconciliation to people—through the gift of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He broke down longstanding walls of prejudice and hostility between Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. He abolished rules that restricted life and replaced them with the new commandment to love as He did. Where have we gone astray? Walls of prejudice still exist and barriers of racism still hold people back from reaching their true potential. We hear the great message of Jesus reconciling people to You, O God, and to one another, and yet we still hesitate to reach out to people when they are different in some way from us.

Forgive us when we create barriers rather than tear them down.

Jesus has made us members of the household of God and He holds us together through the power of His Spirit. Maybe it is because we like to do things the way that we've always done them that creates barriers and excludes strangers, preventing them from ever having the opportunity to experience the reconciling power of Jesus in their lives.

Forgive us when we fail to take risks for the gospel's sake.

We remember with gratitude how people shared their faith with us so that we are no longer strangers and aliens. So we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bind us together in love and peace, building us up as a witnessing, welcoming and forgiving community of grace. We pray this in the name of our Risen Savior who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer Reading

Words of Assurance (Pastor Edgar)

"In Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. In Him we have been reconciled to God through the cross, made citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Hear then, the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings (Pastor Edgar)

Think of the beginning of the 23rd Psalm and the words we pray every week, "Give us this day our daily bread." Taken together, God promises to provide us with what we need to live today so we may see tomorrow. When we think of what we actually have, though, we have more than enough. We give honor and thanks to God when we make our generous offering from our abundance.

Doxology #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Thank You, God, for the ministries of the people of Your church. Thank You, God, for the bounty of Your blessings you have poured out upon us. We have taken a portion of our abundance and given it to You in grateful thanksgiving. Consecrate this offering. May it help to support the ministries of this church that will dismantle the walls that divide us so all people will be one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn (Kitty Anderson): "On Eagle's Wings" By: Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Benediction (Pastor Edgar)

Jesus taught us that when we welcome the strangers, we create a new community where all are one in God. Let us continue the work that Jesus started by welcoming the strangers who cross our paths knowing that God is with us and protects as we pursue our ministries of healing and hope. Proclaim God's glory through your work. Go in peace.

All: Amen.

Sending Forth Music (Chuck Beard): "Lord of the Dance" by: Sydney Carter