

Our Service of Worship for June 20, 2021
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FATHER'S DAY

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "This Is My Father's World"—arr. Dale Wood.

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" *

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Samuel 17:1-49* *

Sermon: "In the Midst of Giants"

A Time of Offering

Solo: "Ride On, King Jesus!"—arr. Hall Johnson

Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn: "Faith of Our Father's" *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"—arr. David Lowe

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi

Pastor

Heather MacPhail

Organist/Director of Music Ministries

Jeri Rathkamp

Lay Worship Leader

Stand firm in your faith

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.
2. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they might be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, pledged to set all captives free,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not them nor Thee
That we fail not them nor Thee.
3. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore.

Faith of Our Fathers!

1. Faith of our fathers! living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword,
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! we will be true to thee till death!
2. Faith of our fathers, God's great power, shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then be truly free:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! we will be true to thee till death!
3. Faith of our fathers! we will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! we will be true to thee till death!

First Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17—The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



Second Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 19-27, 31-50—David and Goliath

¹ Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle... ² Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. ³ The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.



⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him.

⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your

servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

¹⁹ Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰ David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²² David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. ²³ As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

²⁴ All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. ²⁵ The Israelites said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. The king will greatly enrich the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter and make his family free in Israel." ²⁶ David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." ³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!"

³⁸ Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." ⁴⁵ But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.



⁴⁶ This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the



birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. ⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand.

Moment for Meditation—Lessons from the Story of David and Goliath

What are the lessons from the story of David and Goliath?

- We, like David, must be convinced of the rightness of our cause.
- The role of faith in overcoming fear is critical.
- Years of preparation often precede the challenge before us.
- Be authentic. David's tools were simple, but they were familiar to him.
- Run to meet the challenge – choose your battle ground.
- There is no room for conceit in victory.

David was aware that God was the source of his strength, and did not take credit for the outcome. But there is more to the story than pure courage in the presence of adversity. In his book, *David and Goliath*, author Malcolm Gladwell points out that although David was powered by courage and faith, he also possessed a different set of skills. Instead of the close contact fighting that Goliath was expecting David had other ideas. Focused on speed and surprise with a different kind of weapon he fearlessly ran forward with his sling and bag full of stones. The outcome was not as surprising as one might imagine.

Gladwell quotes historian Robert Dohrenwend, “Goliath had as much chance against David as any bronze age warrior with a sword would have against an opponent armed with a .45 automatic pistol.” The bulk of Gladwell’s book focuses on stories of underdogs and how they battled the giants in their lives.

Gladwell contends that in today’s constantly changing environment the key to success often rests with changing the techniques of battle, exchanging size and strength for speed and agility. In this context, courage involves embracing new approaches and making decisions faster than others who may possess greater wealth and raw power.

~ Steve Proctor, presbyterianseniorliving.org

If you’ve ever wondered whether God can use you for his glory, you need not look any further than the story of David and Goliath. Yes, David was young, and he wasn’t a warrior but a shepherd. However, the picture is more complex than that. [Here are] several interesting aspects of the David we find in this story:

- David partially obeys his father, bringing provision to the battle-front, but he doesn’t deliver the goods as requested and instead leaves them with “the keeper of supplies.” (v. 22)
- David shows self-interest in his preoccupation with the reward on offer for slaying the giant, repeatedly asking about it. (verses 25, 26, 30)
- “When convincing Saul he can defeat the giant, David misrepresents his intentions, instead describing hand-to-hand combat. (verses. 34–36)
- David breaks the rules of combat in sneaking a sling onto the battlefield against Goliath by distracting him with his staff,” a tactic some have characterized as “a blow below the belt, a sucker punch, a man with a howitzer mowing down a peasant with a pitchfork.
- David’s storing of the head of the giant in Jerusalem shows his ambition to make Jerusalem his capital when king.

Perhaps none of the above could be described as outright sin, yet they show that David isn’t the simple, pristine, pietistic character we might have thought. Some encouraging words in light of this picture:

It can be an encouragement to us that God works through flawed people, because we all are flawed. All of us are complex characters. Our best moments in service of God are doubtless tainted with selfish motives. None of us has “arrived” and none of us are completely sinless. Yet thanks to Jesus’ death and resurrection, our sin is not counted against us, and God works through us to continue to establish his kingdom.

Despite his flaws, David’s words and deeds set him apart. In contrast to Saul, who refused to fight, David proves himself to be a worthy successor to the throne of Israel. He does not hesitate to run into battle and defend Israel, showing he is better than Saul and worthy to rule Israel. David relies on God and helps to save Israel in an unexpected way.

This is significant, for as Evans explains, “In this David also functions as a type of the future anointed one, Jesus, who will also save Israel in an unexpected way. Both David and Jesus are Israel’s messiahs, both their victories are against the odds, yet spectacular.” So David functions as a “type” of Christ who anticipates this coming anointed one who would save Israel, bringing victory.

~ Jeremy Bouma, zondervanacademic.com

DAVID AND GOLIATH

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trust	sword	armor	philistines
israelites	spear	giant	god
brave	stone	jesse	afraid
slingshot	goliath	harp	israel
army	sheep	shepard	saul
david			