

"I'm Gonna Dance When the Spirit Says Dance"  
October 20, 2019  
St. Paul's UCC Church  
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**2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5**

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

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**SONG: I'm Gonna Dance When the Spirit Says Dance**

- 1: Today we hear a story about King David.
- 2: Remember David?
- 3: He starts out as a shepherd.
- 4: And also a musician!
- 5: One day, he kills the Philistine Goliath.
- 6: ...and becomes Israel's second king, right after King Saul.

7: In our passage for today, David has just been anointed as king. And one of the first things he wants to do as king is take the Ark of the Covenant to the city of Jerusalem, where he plans on reigning.

8: Do you remember the Ark of the Covenant? Maybe you saw Indiana Jones' *Raiders of the Lost Ark* so you know what we're talking about. The Ark of the

Covenant is *the* most sacred object for the ancient Israelites. It's a *huge deal*. It's where God is said to live. And because it's such a huge deal, the newly-anointed King David decides to move it to *his* city, to the city of Jerusalem.

9: The Ark of the Covenant is such a big deal that it makes David... dance! And not only David, but everyone! The scripture says: "David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals." How fun!!

### **SONG: I'm Gonna Dance...**

10: Can't you just see it? Can't you just hear it? David, and all of Israel, dancing and leaping and playing their music before the Lord? What a wonderful scene!

11: And that David... he's pretty great, right? What a guy! He has so much passion for God, so much fire.

12: If you think about it, it's really no surprise that David is king, is it? He's got such zeal for God. *Of course* God would anoint someone like him. It just *makes sense* that God would elect such a passionate and faithful person to serve as king over Israel. ...Right?

13: Maybe. But as it turns out, there's more to the story of David – a lot more – than our scripture for today would lead us to believe. There's a lot that's left out here. And if you were to read the rest of David's story, you would find some stuff that's... not so pretty.

### **SONG: Standin' in the Need of Prayer**

14: As it turns out, when we read more of his story, we find that David truly is standing in the need of prayer. He may seem pretty great today, but there's a lot more to David than meets the eye.

15: If we were to read more from David's story, we would find that he's not good with women, for example. He abuses a woman named Bathsheba. And, as if that isn't enough, he then has her husband killed and forces her to marry him.

16: David is violent. He's really violent. If we were to read a little more, we would find that David's life is filled with war and blood and vengeance and jealousy and political calculations and unfaithfulness.

17: We would find that this king – this guy who seems to be so "on fire" for the Lord today – is fickle and shallow and jealous and selfish.

18: Which is all to say: the more we learn about David, the more we have to ask: why in the world was he able to become king at all?

19: The more we learn about David, the less likely he is to get *my* vote.

**SONG: Kyrie Eleison**

19: David may not get my vote, but he has Someone's vote. Someone kind of important.

ALL: David has God's vote.

20: Though it's true that David is a liar and a war-monger and a womanizer, God still chooses him. Scripture makes it clear all over the place that David is anointed by God, that he is elect of God. Despite King David's many, many flaws, it is still so crystal clear: *David is chosen of God.*

21: Which must mean this: God's choosing, God's election of David clearly has *nothing to do* with how David behaves. It can't! David is a majorly flawed human being. David has done nothing to deserve God choosing him.

22: But that's how God works. That's how God always works.

23: The Scriptures insist on it: from the very beginning of time, God has chosen Israel to be God's peculiar people, a light to the nations. And, at this particular point in Israel's history, God has chosen David to be Israel's king. But the Scriptures also insist that David, and Israel for that matter, have done nothing to deserve this, nothing to earn it. God has chosen Israel – God has chosen David – not because they are so great, but because God is God. God chooses flawed, fallible, unlikely people because *that is what God does.*

**SONG: I'm Gonna Dance... (slower)**

24: God chooses failed, unlikely people because that is what God does. And by the way, God's choosing – what we sometimes call God's election – doesn't stop at David or at Israel. Scripture makes clear that in Christ, God also elects *us* – the church – to be a peculiar people, a light to the nations.

25: But like with David, we have done nothing to deserve this!! We are a broken, messy vessel through which God has chosen to act. We are flawed and fallible and unlikely. But if God did it with David, I guess God can do it with anyone.

26: Even you, even me, even us. Even us, St. Paul's Church.

27: We all are flawed. We all have our doubts, fears, anxieties, selfishness and sin. But despite all of that, God uses us. God uses us anyway.

ALL: Because that is what God does.

**SONG: I'm Gonna Dance... (sing/pray/go/work etc!)**