

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [June 20 Worship Service Video](#)

- Join **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am:
<https://zoom.us/j/4639675160?pwd=V09OUmV0VFpMVGJLTWhueGpSekkwZz09>
Meeting ID: 463 967 5160
Passcode: 4F7iE2
Phone option: 1 204 272 7920
- A nice article on The Healing Farm in the agricultural publication The Western Producer. You can read it here: [Healing Farm Story in Western Producer](#)
- St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry's major fundraising project, the Urban Garden Tours, is coming soon. For more information on this year's virtual event please visit: [2021 Urban Retreats Virtual Garden Tour](#)
- **Offering Information at:** www.charleswoodunited.org/donate Thank you for your generous support.

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, June 20, 2021.

There is a good chance you have never heard of Chaminade University of Honolulu. Unless, that is, you are a basketball fan and know that in 1982 Chaminade accomplished what some consider to be the biggest upset in the history of sport. Bigger than the 1980 US Hockey team's Olympic Miracle on Ice. Bigger than the Blue Bombers drought ending 2019 Grey Cup. Bigger even than Rocky Balboa's famous rematch against World Champion Apollo Creed.

In 1982, Chaminade men's basketball team played the University of Virginia in an insignificant pre-season game in Hawaii. What was significant however, was that Virginia was the top ranked team in the NCAA and featured 3-time National Player of the year, 7'4" Ralph Sampson. Chaminade played in a lower division than Virginia who was undefeated and featured three future NBA players. And yet, Chaminade won 77-72. It was literally the ultimate David vs. Goliath basketball game. And David had won.

David and Goliath loom large in the imagination. The events described 1 Samuel 17 are set almost 3000 years ago. In all likelihood, the story existed as a fable told orally for hundreds of years before it was written down. It is one of those biblical references that has travelled beyond scripture to become a universally recognized symbol. It is a metaphor for any time a person, team, country overcomes insurmountable odds and defeats the giant who stands in their way.

But is it the Word of God? Clearly it is in the sense that it is part of scripture's testimony. However, preachers run away from David and Goliath as quickly as possible for fear it be misinterpreted as a text of divine intervention, or the justification of warfare, or the expectation that this is the way God acts by the Spirit, slaying the giants that lie in the way of believers. One needs to let metaphors be metaphors and look deeply beneath the surface for ways the narrative reveals the love of God and love of neighbour in equal measure.

In 2013 Malcolm Gladwell wrote a book titled *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*. In it he examined the bible story to show the seldom seen path of David as one with wisdom and perspective to see what was possible, and what was not, when confronted by enormous obstacles. He concluded that David understood full well that he could not defeat Goliath in hand-to-hand close combat. And so he doesn't even try. Instead David fights the giant on his own terms, standing some distance off, and using the skills that he possessed, marksmanship with a stone and slingshot. You know the legendary result.

Giants surround us. They take up the arms of racism and hatred and violence. There are times that these giants appear to be so powerful that there is nothing we can do in defence against them. Unless, of course, we take the David path. By standing back to gain a new perspective, and utilizing the gifts that we have rather than trying to employ the tactics of the giants, we find that the ways of justice and peace, of reconciliation and love are as effective as a stone and a sling.

The pandemic has been a challenge of gigantic proportions. Unprecedented during the lifetime of most of us. But as we see the dawn of a new day and sense a hope reborn we may discover that we have been on a David path. The sacrifice and the sorrow commonly borne will ultimately prove to win the day. Literally thousands of lives have been saved by our collective witness, our communal spirit, and the efforts of heroes.

You might say we are the Chaminade of our day.

Grace and peace

Michael

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/T0gfdmSI80>
- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [1 Samuel 17](#)