

WELCOME TO...

# OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David  
Early Morning Service February 05, 2012  
In Search of Living Faith



Silent Preparation for Worship: Reflect on the statement from Living Faith:

**Life in Christ is formed in a believing community,  
and expressed in daily living.**

**Gathering hymn:** Seek ye first

**625**

**Prayer of Confession**

*O God of life, we confess the ways we turn away from the fullness of life that you offer. [silence]*

*God of love, we confess the hatred we hold in our hearts. [silence]*

*God of compassion, we confess our indifference. [silence]*

*God of justice, we confess that our lives are linked to oppressive systems. [silence]*

*God of peace, we confess the violent movements of our hearts, the violent realities of our world. [silence]*

**Holy God, we confess our sins to you. [silence]**

*Sung response: Lord, have mercy*

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***Assurance of Pardon*** (based on Joel 2:13)

*Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven*

***Passing the Peace*** Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another. **The peace of the Lord be with you.**

Our journey to understanding: John 15: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep

my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. **12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Reflection: **Our Life in Christ:** Discipleship, Christian Family,  
Love, Justice, World Peace

Affirmation

Life in Christ brings joy, liberty, glory.  
But it also brings conflict  
with unbelief, fear, and temptation.  
Throughout our lives  
we struggle with disheartening difficulties.  
Yet the Holy Spirit helps us  
and gives us power to grow in Christ.  
While we are far from perfect  
yet our lives can be pleasing to God  
and helpful to others.

Hymn: Will you come and follow me

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Invitation: "This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you. It is our Lord's will that those who want to find God should meet God here."

*(from Invitation from 'a Celtic Eucharist')*

"Eat this bread"

527

*Are you ready to accept this gracious invitation? **We are ready!** Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty. **We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!** We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . . "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance*

*In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said, "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."*

"Here is bread, here is wine"

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*Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . . **We participate in the Body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing. . . We participate in the new life Christ gives. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Come, for all things are ready!***

Communion

Hymn: I'm gonna live so God can use me

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***Dismissal:** Let us pray for a productive faith. **O Lord, increase our faith that it may bear fruit in our lives. Let it bind us fast to other Christians. Let us receive the Divine word that challenges us Lord help us strive wholeheartedly under the promptings of our faith to work in building a world ruled by love. Help us walk steadfast towards the blessed future that you promise to all who possess a growing faith in you. Go in peace and confidence in the Lord. Thanks be to God. The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***