

WELCOME TO...



THE CHURCH



The Presbyterian Church of Saint David Early Morning Service January 29, 2012 In Search of Living Faith

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

The church is Christ together with his people
Called both to worship and to serve him
in all of life.

Gathering hymn: I am the church

475

Lord Jesus, you opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, forgave the sinful woman, and after Peter's denial, confirmed him in your love.

Listen to my prayer, forgive all my sins, renew your love in my heart, help me to live in perfect unity with other Christians, that I may proclaim your saving power to all the world.

Sung response: Lord, have mercy

336

Assurance: God gives us pardon and peace and absolves us from our sins. Praise be to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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

Our Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith.

Our journey to understanding: 1Cor. 12: **12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14** Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are

treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Affirmation

The church is in constant need of reform
because of the failure and sin
which mark its life in every age.
The church is present
when the Word is truly preached,
the sacraments rightly administered,
and as it orders its life
according to the word of God.

Hymn: The church is wherever God's people **484**

As we prepare to partake in this thanksgiving meal we recognize that we must be one with him and with all our brothers and sisters in the Church. Under one God we stand. Together, let us pray in confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour taught us.

Our Father...

Hymn: One bread, one body **540**

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 . . . People: "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, People: "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."

"Behold the Lamb of God"

525

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: May the Lord bless

553

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.*