

WELCOME TO...  
**THE CHURCH REACHES  
OUT**

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

Silent Preparation for Worship: What does mission mean?

Tell me, Lord,

What does mission mean?

Does it mean

A willingness to forsake privileges?

To renounce glamour and position?

to leave no wound in society unhealed

no sore in society unattended

No hurt in society uncared for...?

Does mission mean

never to rest, while hunger

disease

oppression

destroy human life?

Never to be silent, while people suffer under

loneliness

guilt

despair

anxiety

fear

hate...?

Tell me Lord,

What does mission mean?

(Bangalore, India)

As we gather: *Our mission is...*

to tell the biblical story in ever new and creative ways... to hear, respect, and cherish all God's children... *in a world of many nations, peoples, denominations and faiths*, to learn from one another and work together for the healing of the nations.

Hymn: Christ, you call us all to service

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A moment to reflect and confess: *Gracious God, as we gather together for worship this morning, we seek nurture and encouragement.* **We have come to renew our commitment to you, to deepen our understanding of your will and your way. As we offer our praise and our prayers, as we listen to your word and your will, strengthen us, we pray, so that we might find even more confidence in our faith.**

*Through the grace of your son Jesus the Christ, we are offered forgiveness and mercy.* **As we prepare our hearts to be cleansed by your love, we acknowledge the many ways that we have failed to live up to the calling you have given us. Even though we want to draw ever closer to your will and your way, our sin separates us from you. Even though our deepest desire is to take our place in the human family, our selfishness separates us from one another. Even though we really want to live with integrity and generosity, our fears separate our actions from our faith. Help us, Lord, to separate our hearts from our sinful ways, so that we might experience the joy that is found in true discipleship. Amen.**

**Absolution:** Christ hears our confession and forgives our sins. **Christ, have mercy on us and show us a new way.**

*Sung response: Lord, have mercy*

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

Words for reflection: Luke 4

**15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. **16** When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was

his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: **18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20** And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 6:20

Hymn: Who's goin' to tell the story

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An affirmation of Mission:

Mission is **evangelism**,  
the offer of salvation to all people  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
to be received through faith in Christ.  
It asks people to repent of their sins,  
to trust Christ,  
to be baptized,  
and to enter a life honouring Jesus as Lord.  
Mission is **service**,  
a call to help people in need and  
to permeate all of life with the compassion of God.

Our invitation: **Invitation** Come, for all things are now ready.  
Come to the table and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

**May we who share these gifts share Christ with one another and all humanity.**

Hymn: Eat this bread

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*In company with all believers in every time and beyond time,  
we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.*

**This is the Lord's Supper of love. This is the love that God has ordained for all, the love that unites us because it is the essence of God. We come by Jesus' invitation to this holy supper so full of mystery. We come to be one with each other, to taste the essence of heaven in community.**

*Lord Jesus Christ you give us contentment and life. You are the One who gives us nourishment. We open our hearts to taste the offering of life you bring. God be with us!*

*Let us lift up our hearts. We lift our hearts to God.*

*Let us give God thanks and praise.*

**Thanksgiving (concluding with...)**

*Come, Holy Spirit, come! Bless our food, and bless our drink.*

**Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, and in each other,**

Hymn: Behold the lamb of God

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**Communion**

Hymn Now to Christ who loved us

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**Dismissal Blessing** As you go from this place, may you be stronger in faith, richer in understanding, and filled with the joy of the Lord. As you take your place in the world, may you recognize your role as ambassador for Christ which is: **Share God's love, mercy and peace, doing so in the name of the God who created us all, the Son who redeemed us all, and the Spirit who sustains us all. Amen.**

Hymn: To show by touch and word

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