

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David
Early Morning Service April 29, 2012

A JOURNEY TO MY PROPHETS



Prophets of God

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (Luke 4:18)

The real question before us in this series is – “what voices do you listen to?” Sound like a simple question? Think of the confusion of voices that come to you every day from TV, radio, the internet - from friends on facebook or columnists in the paper, from colleagues and co-workers and clergy (if you still listen to them!).

Gathering: *The Lord declares, 'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not punish'. God, you have sent prophet and priest to proclaim your will and your way and we have ignored them. Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' Yes, Lord, we should listen to the prophetic voices you have sent, but our ears are dull and our eyes are dim and we miss bushes that burn and still small voices that whisper and even bodies that break the bonds of death.

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us as we seek a deeper understanding of your will and way. Create in us a desire to devote ourselves to the discipline of searching for and studying your truth, to the glory and praise of Jesus Christ our prophet and priest. Amen.

Hymn: O Spirit come, our hearts inspire

404

Prayer of Confession:

God, loving triune God, we come.

Yet we know we come with doubts and fears.

We know we come in ignorance.

We know we have failed you, your creation and your people, in many ways.

Trusting in your love, we turn again to you.

As we open our hearts to your mercy and forgiveness, grant us your peace.

Accept these prayers, accept our worship, accept us, through your love, Amen

Words for reflection:

Jeremiah 1: 4-10 (v. 4) Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, (v. 5) “Before I formed you in the womb I

knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (v. 6) **Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”** (v. 7) But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. (v. 8) Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” (v. 9) Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. (v. 10) See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Jeremiah had a powerful responsibility to preach a prophetic word at a time when many did not want to hear his truthful proclamations. Like Jeremiah, we must be courageous and ensure that we invest in the future... and our young people embody that future. Are we doing all that we can to equip our youngsters with the character and skills they need to thrive in the present age. If you were a ‘prophet’ what word would you have for this generation?

Luke 4: 16-24

A brief message: **A Journey to my prophets**

Prayer:

You send us prophets and truth speakers to open our eyes and ears to your ‘Big Picture’. Show us how to hear them, how to support them, and how to interpret their wisdom. Help us to trust that your prophetic voice may also be communicated through our words and actions. May we practice a spirit of discernment and a stance of humility, so that your truth be spoken, not our own.

Celebrating the sacrament: *Glorify the Lord with me.*

Let us together praise His name.

In my need He has answered me,

Delivering me from all my fears.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Happy are they who take refuge in Him,

Nothing shall they want.

I will turn from sin to do Your will.

Seek peace and follow in its way,

For the Lord raises up the lives

Of the just who cry out to him.

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 all your people, that I may proclaim your saving power to all the world.

Hymn: Break now the bread of life (1-2) 507

Prayer of Thanksgiving, concluding with...

Let your Spirit guide us now in remembrance of the body and blood of our

Lord, Jesus Christ. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that

our eyes might be open, that we might recognize the risen

Christ in our midst, indeed in one another. Come, holy Spirit,

come.

Hymn: Break now the bread of life (3) 507

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us 554