

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David  
Early Morning Service May 13, 2012

# A JOURNEY TO MY PROPHETS



## Prophets of God

Joel – prophet of Repentance

The prophet Joel icon by M Garrett 2008

The real question before us in this series is – “what voices do you listen to?” Similar is the question ‘what ‘right’ does religion have to speak out on social and political issues of the day?

**Gathering:** *Return to the Lord. Leave behind all the pain.*

*Leave behind all the hate. Come back to your true life again.*

**Return to the Lord. Abandon your sins. Abandon your fears. Come back to repentance and hope.** *Return to the Lord. Discard your old ways. Give up your old sorrows. Cling to the hope found in Christ.*

Hymn: God be merciful to me

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Prayer of Confession: *Called to proclaim repentance, we are reluctant to look at our own failings. Invited to witness to God's loving forgiveness of sins, we would rather not speak aloud of our own. Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing.*

**You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God Most High. We watch our clocks to make sure we spend more time with ourselves than with you. We are hesitant to witness to your power from on high, as we are uncertain of your presence in our lives.**

*Forgive us, God of Light. Fill us with the healing presence of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your good news, as we participate in the life and suffering of our world, as did your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**(Silence is kept)**

*Choosing to set aside judgment, God gives us justice; choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace; choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us. **Forgiven, redeemed, restored—we will tell everyone, through the lives we lead, what God has done for us.***  
*Thanks be to God. Amen*

Hymn: Jesus remember me

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## Sharing the Peace

**Words for reflection:** Joel 2:12–12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the

Lord, your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?" "

Matthew 4: 12 12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Prayer:

**You send us prophets and truth speakers to open our eyes and ears. You call us to turn around from the ways of the world and seek the light of your son. Help us to listen to the voices calling us to repentance.**

Hymn: Softly and tenderly

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

**Joel – Prophet and Preacher of Repentance!**

Celebrating the sacrament:

Hymn: Let us break bread together

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Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. Glorify the Lord with me. Let us together praise His name. Come hover over us*

*now with your bright brooding wings in the breaking of bread and in the celebration of this cup, that our eyes may be opened to recognize Christ among us and in all who share in this feast. Knit us more closely together in the community of faith. We offer ourselves, our lives, our resources, to be your hands reaching into the world with your unfathomable compassion. Fill us like breath fills flutes to be instruments of your peace. (silence)* Where there is lack of regard for your creation **Prod us to speak up.** Where people fail to see the dignity of all persons, **Open blind eyes.** Where there is silence about others being hurt, **Impassion us with a desire for justice.** Lord, your creation groans under abuse. **Renew the earth with goodness.** Your children are starving across this globe. To those who hunger **Give bread.** And to those who have bread **Give hunger for justice.** People languish in prisons, some unjustly, some without repentance, And some for standing up for your Way. **Release the captives, Lord.** O God, our Sovereign, leaders in all lands take bribes and afflict their peoples. **Topple oppressive powers with your rule and send the rich empty away.** Your church luxuriates in the comfort of faith; **Send us to be your servants in service to the world.** The sick suffer forgotten in pain **Heal their hurts in body, mind, and spirit.** People have solicited our prayers And others needing our prayers weigh heavy on our hearts So we offer these, our prayers to you: *{In silence name those for whom you are praying}* *By your word and Spirit, O God, sanctify these your own gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which we break may be to us communion in the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless may be communion in the blood of Christ Come, holy Spirit, come.*

Hymn: Here, O my Lord (vs. 1-2)

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**Communion**

Hymn: Here O my Lord (vs. 6-7)

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Prayer following communion:

Hymn: May the Lord bless you

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