

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David
Early Morning Service May 20, 2012

A JOURNEY TO MY PROPHETS



Prophets of God

AMOS – champion of the poor

The prophet Joel icon by M Garrett 2008

The real question before us in this series is – “what voices do you listen to?” How does the church today ‘champion’ the cause of the poor in our society. What does the phrase “God’s preferential option for the poor” mean to you? Hosea was the more noted prophet to address social injustice.

Gathering: *"Listen, dear brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom he promised to those who love him?"*

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

Hymn: Praise God

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Prayer of Confession: *I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed, For I long to see the end of poverty; I dare to pray: Lord, let the rules be changed, for I long to see our economic structures bring justice to the poor; I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed, for I long to bring hope where the Good News is needed. In the strength of your spirit and inspired by your compassion, I make this promise to work for change, and wait confidently for the day when you make all things new And those that weep will rejoice.*

(Silence is kept)

God of justice and compassion, We ask forgiveness for the widening gulf between rich and poor, for the use of money as a measure of all things, for the culture of self-gratification, for the continuing disparities between those that have so much and those who have so little. And for the suffering of those people who are excluded from the table of abundance.

Hymn: What does the Lord require of you?

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Sharing the Peace

Words for reflection: Amos 5: 10-24 **10** They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. **11** Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. **12** For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

13 Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. **14** Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. **15** Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. **16** Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: In all the squares there shall be wailing; and in all the streets they shall say, "Alas! alas!" They shall call the farmers to mourning, and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing; **17** in all the vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through the midst of you, says the Lord. **18** Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; **19** as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. **20** Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? **21** I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. **22** Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. **23** Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. **24** But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Prayer:

You send us prophets and truth speakers to open our eyes and ears. Give us the strength and determination to work towards solutions and policy changes that can free our sisters and brothers around the world from the chains of poverty. Inspire us to challenge our leaders to make debt relief and fighting poverty a priority, and make our voices loud and clear.

Hymn: When the poor ones (vs. 1-2) 762

A brief message: **A Journey to my prophets**
AMOS – champion of the poor

Hymn: When the poor ones (vs. 3-4) 762

Celebrating the sacrament:

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. ... (we continue in prayer)* 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: Come now, you blessed, eat at my table (vs. 1-3) 724

Communion

Hymn Come now, you blessed, eat at my table (vs. 4) 724

Prayer following communion: **Fill us Lord with your compassion, give us your eyes to see, give us boldness and selflessness and wisdom, so that we too might cry out for justice and feed the hungry, so that your light might shine throughout the earth.**

Hymn: May the Lord bless you 553

