

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

September 23, 2012 Early Morning Service in the Season of Creation

A reflection as we gather:

*Why a Season of Creation? For many reasons! **First**, because God has given us a creation with which to celebrate! **Second**, because through worship we have an opportunity to come to terms with the environmental crisis in a spiritual way and empathise with a groaning creation. **Third**, because a fresh focus on the wonder and wounds of creation will help us to care for creation as part of our ministry. **Fourth**, and perhaps most important of all, this Season enables us to celebrate the many ways in which Christ is connected with creation.*



Gathering Words

In the beginning was the Word – the dawn of life.

In the end will be the Word – the living hope.

In between is the evolving Kingdom of God.

Come to us Lord, mingle your purpose in our lives, your promise with our hope. *From Celebrating Creation*

Hymn: teach me God to Wonder

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Scripture says: Choose this day...

Choose Life Choose a planet.

Choose a table. Choose a meal with friends and a time to share it.

Choose an environment. Choose a way of living. Choose a word to speak until you can live it fully, for others.

Choose a world. Choose God. Choose a means of understanding what's going on and believe in it.

Choose a colour. Choose green. Choose blue. Choose rainbows.

Choose a shade that reflects the hope found in giving to others.

Choose a loaf. Choose a wine. Choose a sacrament. Don't just speak about it, do it. Choose a community. Choose a faith. Choose a place to be completely, fully, totally in love.

Choose life. Choose God. Choose Jesus. Choose today.

Choose here. Choose now. Choose to choose. *Roddy Hamilton 2007*

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Creating God, You are the source of light and life,
so we praise you. You became flesh to bring light and life,
so we praise you. You sustain the world with your light and life,
so we praise you. In the beginning God said, "Let there be light".

And there was light and it was good.

Then God said, "Let there be land in the middle of the seas".

And there was land and it was good.

God said, "Let there be animals - all sorts of animals".

And they were good.

Then God said, "Let there be people".

And we too, are part of God's creation.

(From EYCE Songbook - Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe)

Praise to you, creator of heaven and earth

You give us the food of the earth and the water of the well.

Praise to you, Jesus Christ who walked our ways.

You have revealed the will of God and the holiness of the earth.

Praise to you, Holy Spirit Giver of Life and Helper.

You awaken our song of praise in faith and struggle. *(Per Harling,*

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An Affirmation of Faith (please stand as able)

We have faith in **One God, one Source of all life. One Ground of the whole earth, with all her creatures.** And thus we have faith in the **fullness of earth's life, in the innate worth of all her dependents, in human partnership in the life of nature.**

And we have faith

that in Christ we have been shown the special role of the human race to bear God's likeness in working and caring for the earth, in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in gently working with these powers for the well being of all children of the earth.

And we have faith **that God's Spirit will lead us to sensitive closeness with earth's life, so that meek, unselfish and compassionate life-style by which the earth is inherited in peace, by which her life is transformed for all creatures to share justly in her bounty. So be it. Amen.** *From India, in Sinfonia Oecomenica, Güterslober Verlagshaus, Gütersloh und Basilea Verlag, Basel, 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2001*

A Reflection on our Present Plight

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) The high, the low all of creation God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused, God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity. (What response would you make to this statement?)

Romans 8: 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing [with the glory about to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; **20** for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; **23** and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Hymn: God in great love for us lent us this planet **719**

Words of Institution

Invitation He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. **But here, at this table, he is the host.** Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him; those who want to follow him must first be fed by him; those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. **For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.** So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. **Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.**

Liturgy at the table and Distribution

Dismissal Blessing Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds, and through you, to bring healing to Earth, in Jesus' name. Amen.

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and



compassion and to serve Earth by caring for creation. Hold again the creation in your hands as you go forth to serve.

We will remember the creation and the Creator! We will groan with creation! We will celebrate with the world the love of God.

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the impulse of Christ within you. Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth!

Hymn: Go now in peace

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