

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

September 23, 2012

Early Morning Service in the Season of Creation

LET THERE BE LIGHT



Call to Worship

When insight floods a human mind, when a solution arises in a vexed heart, when the light bulb goes on, in such creative moments

we hear an echo of the act of creation itself,
and catch a glimpse of the Creator of all,
whom we come to worship now.

Prayer: *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.

Hymn: I waited

24

Jesus Christ, You rose with the dawn. Risen Christ, You remind us of your presence, with the rising of the sun each dawn. Living Christ, You are the light of the world. In the name of the Creator, the source of light, in the name of Christ, who rose with the dawn, and the name of the Spirit, who dances with the sun. May your presence rise among us!

Genesis 1: **1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Quiet reflection

Hymn: You are author

430

Prayer of Confession: *God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. With moments so critical we let time go by. With deliverance so near we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armour, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that we may meet the moment you graciously give us. Dispel the shadows, so*

that your will may be clear. Clothed with new light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those awake to your will.

John 1: **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Quiet reflection

Hymn: Before the world began 341

**“Almighty God, Sustainer,
Sun behind all suns,
soul behind all souls,
everlasting reconciler of our whole beings:
show to us in everything we touch and in everyone
we meet
the continued assurance of Thy presence round us:
lest ever we should think Thee absent.
In all created things Thou art there.”**

(The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory: Iona Prayers by Rev. George F. MacLeod: Wild Goose Publications, 1985.)

The Community Reflects

An Affirmation of Faith (please stand as able)

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24, 1)*

Every part of this earth is sacred.

Whatever befalls the earth

befalls the children of the earth.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us:

we belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected:

like the blood which unites one family.

This we know, whatever we do to the web:

we do to ourselves.

Adapted from Chief Seattle, 19th Century

Communion Hymn: Shout for Joy 557

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.** *The Sacrament of Bread and Wine –where God comes to meet us in the ordinary things of the earth that God has made holy – wheat and grapes, food and drink for our souls and for our bodies, grown in the soil, watered by the rain, ripened by the sun, fashioned by human hands so that the divine purpose may once again be fulfilled.*

Liturgy at the table (Behold the Lamb 525) *Distribution*

Response to the sacrament Hallelujah 532

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Send us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Go in peace, serving Christ and bringing light to the world!

We go in peace to serve Christ and bring his light to the world!

Hymn: Go now in peace 622