

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
November 11, 2012

Early Morning Service in the Season of Creation

# The Creator's Rest



“God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” Genesis 2:1-3

**Introduction to Theme:** Creation is not complete until there is a time of resting, a time of Sabbath. In a society that never sleeps and rarely rests, have we been disconnected from creation with our own busyness?

Hymn: This is the day 78  
*When the busyness of our lives erodes the intentions of our hearts: Merciful God, forgive us. When our personal agendas take precedence over reaching out to others: Merciful God, forgive us. When we keep putting off being more active “doers of the word”: Merciful God, forgive us. When we resist change, knowing that our acting and thinking are limited by our prejudice and ignorance: Merciful God, forgive us. When we only half-listen to those who cry out to be fully heard: Merciful God, forgive us. (A time of silence to contemplate these words and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.)*

**Gracious and merciful God, forgive us for past faults and help us in the present and future to make ourselves more available to the hurting world that surrounds us- the world that begins on our doorsteps. Equip us to be patient and compassionate listeners, proclaiming the gospel not in overbearing ways but sensitively and lovingly. Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit to be fruitful and active witnesses to Jesus in all we do and say. (prayers by Moira Laidlaw)**

Sharing the Peace:

Hymn: Make me a channel

740

Scripture: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Genesis 2:1-3

*These verses conclude the first creation story, acknowledged to be the later of the two creation accounts in Genesis. We all know the story. God the Creator turned “a formless void” into “the heavens and the earth, and all their multitude.” And then God rested. The story of the creation of the universe includes seven days — six days of creating and one day of resting. The creation story links the concepts of creating and rest. The Creator creates, but also pauses from creating; the Creator works, but also rests. The Genesis story has*

*a time out, a break from creating known as the rest of completion, a job well done. For the Creator this time is also "blessed" and "hallowed." This time is set aside as sacred and holy time, a time to be happy, to be reverent, to offer praise. The Genesis creation story reminds us of the importance of Sabbath-keeping. This story, and the keeping of the Sabbath, defined the Hebrew people when they were in exile and their other institutions - monarchy, temple and land - lay in ruins. The Sabbath institution made a unique contribution to mid-Eastern culture since it set forth a seven-day week that included a Sabbath day of rest. Perhaps the Genesis story's concept of Sabbath can make a unique contribution to our efforts to be faithful in a world full of anxiety and busyness, to our lives full of never-ending to-do lists and deadlines. It simply means the ending of activity, the cessation of effort. God was not tired by this creative work, did not need to rest to restore strength. God did not stop because of fatigue; God stopped because creation was complete.*

### ***Creating the conversation:***

What memories does the word *Sabbath* evoke for you? How have your patterns of keeping Sabbath changed during the course of your lifetime? How would you assess the differences these changes have made in your life and in society? What would you have to say no to in order to say yes to keeping Sabbath? Is there some beginning step that lies within your reach?

Hymn: First day of the week

437

### **Poetry of the Sabbath:**

Whatever is foreseen in joy  
Must be lived out from day to day.  
Vision held open in the dark  
By our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.

And yet no leaf or grain is filled  
By work of ours; the field is tilled  
And left to grace. That we may reap,  
Great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day, and finds it good.

-Wendell Berry, from *A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997*

*How gracious you are, Lord: your gift of bread from heaven reveals a Father's love and brings us perfect joy. You fill the hungry with good things and send away the rich in their pride. Almighty God, you have set a table before us, and called us to feast with you. Prepare us in mind and spirit to minister in your name, and to honour your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen*

Hymn: Broken for me (vs. 1-2)

550

*Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty. We are hungry and thirsty. God, we come! God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbours near and far. Bless this bread, we pray. May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world. Bless this cup, we pray. May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.*

*(Thanksgiving concluding with ...) Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . . We participate in the Body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing... We participate in the new life Christ gives. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Come, for all things are ready!*

Hymn: Broken for me (vs. 3-4)

550

### **Communion**

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*... in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." (Ex. 31.17)*

*... in six days God made the Heavens and the Earth and on the seventh day he stopped and took a long, deep breath. (Message)*

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth and the peoples of Earth. Will you care for creation? **With Christ, we will care for creation! With Christ, we will keep our planet green! With Christ, we will celebrate life!**

Hymn: Send me Lord

777