

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

November 18, 2012

Early Morning Service in the Season of Creation

The SABBATH ECOLOGY/ECONOMY



**REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY
TO KEEP IT HOLY**

Introduction to Theme: Sabbath's first mention was the Creator's rest. It takes on much more meaning as it applies to the life of God's creation, especially that of human life and lifestyle, affecting everything from economy to ecology.

This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it. **This is a day for peace and proclamation, for rest and reflection, for working at worship instead of worshipping work.** The Sabbath day is a holy day, consecrated by the Creator as a gift to creation. We are commanded to honour and preserve it. **The Sabbath day is a holy day, wherein we realize that all days are God's days; a day of rest, wherein we realize that all work is God's work; a day of peace wherein we can realize that God is our maker and our mender, too.** Together, let us keep the Sabbath.

Hymn: Awake, arise, oh sing a new song

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Prayer of Confession: *Lord of the Sabbath, hear our prayer. It is hard for us to stop working, and harder still to stop worshipping work. We confess that our busyness often substitutes for our holiness. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be still enough to know you. Help us to understand that your Sabbath is the seam between the world of work and the work of worship. Help us to know that the Sabbath is what keeps us from unravelling, that it knits up the harried and makes them holy, that it even helps to heal creation from the crash. In this quiet, peaceful time, we honour you, we rest in you, we long to know you as maker and mender. Through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen*

Sharing the Peace:

Scripture for the ecology: "Six days you shall gather it [manna]; but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none." On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, and they found none. The Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and instructions? See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath, therefore on the sixth day he gives you food for two days; each of you stay where you are; do not leave your place on the seventh day." Exodus 16: 26-30

Creating the conversation:

Reflect on your daily living. Where does your life reflect a theology of ecology and a concern for Sabbath? What actions could you take to live more faithfully as a steward of creation and make possible Sabbath living?

Hymn: To God in the highest

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Scripture for the economy

This shall be a statute to you forever: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall deny yourselves, and shall do no work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you... It is a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall deny yourselves; it is a statute forever... Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard... You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years... And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

Leviticus 16:29,31; 25:2-4,8,10a

Creating the conversation

Stop for a moment to focus on the goodness of the Creator and the creation. Then consider the implications of following Sabbath economics. Maybe you or your community are already experiencing or implementing them. (For an example read story #3 on page 63.) How does Sabbath economics feel?

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him

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Invitation: Here at this table Christ 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 that Christ can renew us.**

Hymn: Sing praise and bless the Lord

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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.

We celebrate the Spirit of God, Who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We praise You, Spirit of God.

We celebrate the Spirit of God, Who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through Him, made the life of God available to all.

We praise You, Spirit of God.

We celebrate the Spirit of God, Who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. We praise You, Spirit of God.

And so, as we gather at the Lord's table, we recognise the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence.

(Silence) Gracious God, we come knowing that we depend on you for life and truth and love. We come knowing that you welcome us with open and accepting arms. We come ready to meet with you, and be changed by the encounter. 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.

Communion

Prayer following communion

God of Sabbath and sacred seasons. **Renew our hearts and minds**

God of leisure and the Lord's day. **Renew our hearts and minds**

God of hope, growth and harvest **Renew our hearts and minds**

Hymn: Lord, dismiss us

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