

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
December 09, 2012**

Early Morning Service in the Season of Advent



**Jesus can you take the time to throw a drowning man a
line...Peace on Earth**

**Tell the ones who hear no sound whose sons are living in the
ground...Peace on Earth**

**No whos or whys no one cries like a mother cries
For peace on Earth**

**She never got to say goodbye to see the colour in his eyes
Now he's in the dirt... Peace on Earth (U2)**

Introduction to Theme: Advent is not simply a preparation to celebrate Christmas. It is an invitation to welcome 'the One Who Comes'. It is rightly designated a prophetic season, for this is a time to identify with the prophets of all times as people who have ears to hear and eyes to see; people who are awake to the possibilities of God's dynamic presence in our own circumstances, someone like Malachi (the Messenger) of old. This passage is a well-know precursor of peace with the proclamation of the one to come. Over the four Sundays of Advent this year, as we begin a year that will focus especially on the Gospel of Luke, the themes will be as follows:

- Seeing beyond the horizon of humanity (Luke 21:25-36)
- John the Baptist: prepare the way of the Lord (Luke 3:1-6)
- Responding to prophetic voices (Luke 3:7-18)
- The child of promise (Luke 1:39-45)

A call to gather

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hymn: Arise, shine you light has come

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Prayer of Confession: *Now is the time of watching and waiting
A time pregnant with hope A time to watch and pray.*

Christ our Advent peace, remind us to prepare for your coming; Remind us to prepare for this time when the soles of your feet touch the ground, when you will become one of us to be a one with us. May we watch for the signs, listen for the messengers, wait for the good news to slip into our world, our lives. Christ our Advent peace, help us to clear the way for you; to clear the clutter from our minds, to sift the silt from our hearts, to move the boulders that prevents us meeting you. May sorrow take flight, And your people sing a song of peace. And hope be born again. Amen. (adapted from Kate McIlhagga)

Response: Jesus, lamb of God

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Sharing the Peace:

Malachi 3:1-4 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Question for the conversation:

Hear it every Christmas time
But hope and history won't rhyme
So what's it worth
This peace on Earth
Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth (U2)

Hymn: What is the crying at Jordan

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Luke 3: 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Invitation: The Prince of Peace welcomes you to this meal of reconciliation – a reconciliation between you and God and you and others – and only reconciliation can bring peace. **For this is the table where God intends us to find communion in Christ or Prince of Peace.** Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands

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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 continue in prayer) *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)* Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, seek peace for the planet, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. *Gracious God, we come knowing that we depend on you to find peace that passes understanding. 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: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and bring peace on earth, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Hymn: Shalom chaverim

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