

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
February 03, 2013

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**FOCUS:** For the next several weeks the focus of the early service will be to look in depth at one of the lectionary readings and some of the background to the passage. We continue today as our passage reveals to us the extent of Jesus' mission to Israel and to the world.

**Gathering:** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. The Spirit of the Lord is in us. Anointing us, Sending us. To bring good news to bind up*

*to proclaim favour to comfort to provide to loosen. The day of the Lord is coming. The day of the Lord has come!*

Hymn: Lord whose love

722

Prayer of Confession: *Save us, O God, From the blindness, which is not even aware that it is sinning; From the pride, which cannot admit that it is wrong; From the self-will, which can see nothing but its own way; From the self-righteousness, which can see no flaw within itself; From the callousness, which has sinned so often that it has ceased to care; From the defiance, which is not even sorry for its sins; From the evasion, which always puts the blame on someone or something else; From the heart so hardened, that it cannot repent. Give us at all times, Eyes which are open to our faults; A conscience which is sensitive and quick to warn; a heart that cannot sin in peace, but is moved to regret and remorse.*

*So grant that being truly penitent we may be truly forgiven, so that we may find that your love is great enough to cover all of his sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ written by William Barclay in Prayers for the Christian Year*

**Luke 4:21-30** Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Continuing the Conversation: **Reflection by Kate Huey** Last week's reading from the Gospel of Luke left us right in the middle of Jesus' homecoming appearance in the synagogue at Nazareth, as he read an inspiring passage from the prophet Isaiah, and followed it up with a simple yet powerful sermon: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." If this were the movies or TV, there would have been a beat of silence, for dramatic effect, while his words sank into the hearts and minds of his audience. This week's reading describes the reaction of the crowd, as they marveled, at least for the moment, at Jesus' "gracious words." Isn't it amazing, they wonder, that one of our very own boys--Joseph's son--could be so impressive? And doesn't he know his Bible! The warm reception lasts all of two verses, however, because something seems to be bothering Jesus as he listens to the hometown crowd gushing about him. Clearly, he's not basking in the glow of their admiration. Does he know more about their expectations than we can read from the text? Does he feel that they've missed the point? Does he have a sense that they won't like where he's going with this line of thought, about jubilee ("the year of the Lord's favour") and the liberation of the oppressed? Or does he suspect that that kind of talk is fine as long as it applies to them, but not to those who somehow stand outside the favour of God? We don't have the answers to those questions, but we do know that Jesus' faithfulness to his mission drives him out to the edge, and back again, and sets him on the road to preach the good news beyond the familiar confines of home, out there, in the world God loves.

Hymn: Lord in this broken world 723

**Intercessory Prayers** *Sisters and brothers, as Jesus challenged his hometown kin we too offer our prayers for the church and the world.*

**Invitation:** When Jesus poured the wine, and the bread was broken; when everyone could eat - the gentile and the Jew together, the rainbow of colour and creed, orientation and occupation, the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by - the table became a foretaste of love made real and of a world made whole.

Hymn: Come now you blessed 724

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *You sent your Word among us in the human body of your child, Jesus Christ. Anointed with your Holy Spirit, he came with good news for the poor, and a message of release for the captives, sight for the blinded, and freedom for the oppressed. He was killed by the proud and powerful, but you raised him to new life and made us all members of his body so that with all our gifts working as one, we might fulfil your mission in all the world. Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*  
*(Continue in prayer)*

Hymn: Eat this bread

527

## Communion

### Prayer following communion

Hymn: May the God of hope go with you 726  
If you have found some of the good bread of Christ here this day, then don't hesitate to share it with others. For this is the bread that increases the more it is given away, and nourishes us best in the presence of faith, hope and love.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
..... in the name of Christ. Amen.**

