

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 13, 2013



BAPTISM

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 begin with the Sunday readings that focus on the Baptism of our Lord.

Gathering: *God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hymn: She comes sailing

(1-3)

403

Prayer of Confession: *With joy draw waters from the well of salvation! Forgiveness is real! Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven. Jesus said: "There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." Truly, God is our salvation we shall trust and not be afraid! The peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all. And also with you (we continue in prayer)*

Lectio Divina

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Continuing the Conversation: William Willimon,
"The promise ... at baptism is that the God who first reached for us in baptism will not cease dealing with us until God has finished what God began in us. Baptism is a once-and-for-all event that usually happens when we are babies but takes our whole life to finish.

"Every day we must live our baptism. Every day we must respond to God's gracious gifts in our lives. Whether we are baptized at age six months or age sixty, the day after our baptism we must renew our baptismal vows, open ourselves again to God's Spirit in our lives, say 'yes' in all the big and little things we do and people we meet and promises we keep throughout the day."

What meaning do you associate with Baptism?
Do you 'remember your baptism' as part of your everyday response to life?

Hymn: She comes sailing (4-5) 403

Intercessory Prayers

*Sisters and brothers, our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world.
(continue in prayer concluding with)*

Lord God,
you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan
and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit
to proclaim good news to all people.
Sanctify us by the same Spirit,
that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel
by acts of love in your name. Amen.

Invitation: The promise is that when you are together, when you tell the story and give the blessing, when you break the bread and pour the wine you will discover a foretaste of love made real and of a world made whole.

Hymn: Now there is no male or female 513

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Rejoice in the Lord always. Shout out his name.*
For God is with us. Our God is with us. The God of our salvation in whom alone we trust. Rejoice in the Lord always Shout out his name (we continue in prayer) *Gracious God, remembering*

now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming. *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.*

Hymn: Let us break bread together 548

Communion

Prayer following communion

God, your voice moves over the waters.

Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your images, and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Shout for JOY 557

Go now and rejoice in the Lord always.
Do not be afraid or worried about anything,
but in everything trust God and pray.
Bear fruits worthy of repentance,
sharing what you have and being gentle with all.

