

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 13, 2013



WATER TO WINE

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 with the Sunday reading focussing on the sign of water to wine.

Gathering: *We have come to worship God, the living God. We have come to praise God, the almighty God who responds to our need with the power of grace. We have come to worship God, all-gracious God, who invites us as guests to celebrate and join the party. All glory to God!*

Hymn: We come as guests invited (verses 1-2) **524**

Prayer of Confession: *Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain, will not be moved. Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out.*

Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy. Lord, we need a miracle today. Amen.

John 2:1-11 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Continuing the Conversation: So many words come to mind in seeking an answer to why this is the first recorded miracle of the Christian era. Words like compassion for other, and hospitality and family... maybe this was an extended teaching story about the life Christ offers and how Christ rescues us in our time of need. Maybe it is a sacramental story where the wine of the new covenant supplants the waters of purification. What we do know is that every word John uses has a deeper meaning. Care to express what some of that meaning may be for you?

Let's see who is at the party and what this 'sign' may have meant to them: the steward of the part, the servants, Mary, the newly-formed band of disciples, the wedding couple, the wedding guests, the villagers, Jesus. Can you remember other moments that were also called 'signs' (over against simply being miracles).

Hymn: We come as guests invited (3) **524**

Intercessory Prayers

Sisters and brothers, as Jesus had compassion and mercy on those in need at a wedding celebration, 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 outcast and the beloved
the arrogant and the gracious
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by -
the table became a foretaste of love made real
and of a world made whole

Hymn: Now there is no male or female **513**

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine **546**

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: Now to Christ who loved us **554**

Communion

Prayer following communion

You have given us today a sign of your love in bread and wine. Enable us to live always seeking to transform the ordinary into the extra-ordinary and the common into a sign of your love, grace and mercy

Hymn: For the bread (verses 1 and 4) **549**

