

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 27, 2013



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 nature of Jesus' mission.

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: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

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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.

Luke 4:14-21 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Continuing the Conversation: As Rod pointed out last week, Jesus had been tempted by the devil in the wilderness (vv. 1-13) to

misuse his power for his personal benefit, for worldly domination, and for protection from God's plan fulfilled on the cross. Now he returns to Galilee. Jesus customarily attends synagogue services to worship and present his message; it is there that Luke tells us who Jesus is: he stands in continuity with God's promises of old. Jesus is a great teacher; he has great authority in telling people about God and his plan. Jesus begins with one part of the scroll (Isaiah 61), then *rewinds* to another: vv. 18-19 emphasize his mission to those who are "poor" in any way, be it financially, in spirit, in health. In "the year of the Lord's favour", the jubilee year, debts were forgiven and slaves were set free. Jesus applies these verses to himself: he performs the works of the Messiah as then expected. He then sits to interpret the readings: he says that God's plan is now being completed ("fulfilled", v. 21).

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God 400

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: You thirsty ones 190

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: God be in my head 580

Communion

Prayer following communion

Hymn: What does the Lord require of you 709
Go now, and live as one body in Christ.
Be at peace, and care for one another;
Suffer with one another and rejoice with one another.
Give your attention to the Word of God
and proclaim the good news of freedom to all.

And may God delight your heart and sharpen your vision;
May Christ Jesus keep you, thought and word, in his grace;
And may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains you all
and binds you together as one.

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

