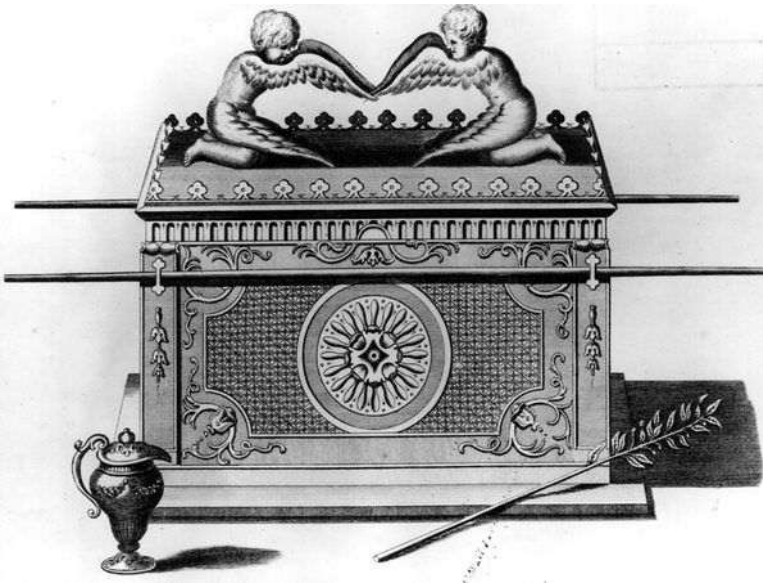


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
February 17, 2013

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CLAIMED BY THE COVENANT



**FOCUS:** Reformed theology is covenant theology – an expression of a unique relationship with God and others, first through Israel of old and now in Jesus Christ. Our Lenten journey will explore how this relationship has been lived out over the millennia. The readings are from the Lenten lectionary.

**Gathering:** *We gather on this first day of our Lenten journey eager to know and experience the leading of God through the wilderness of our lives.*

**Gracious God,** may this be a time not of weary wandering but

of searching and seeking after our true identity as your people. *On the journey teach us who, and whose we are. As a covenant people we gather to worship and remember who we are this day.*

Opening prayer

Hymn: I hunger and I thirst (1-3)

198

Prayer of Confession: *God of mercy, come into the hidden places of our hearts. Forgive our sins and make us whole. Christ of compassion, come. Into the broken places of our world. Bring us to repentance and renew us. Spirit of life, come into the polluted places of our lives. Have mercy on us and draw us close. Son of the living God, Christ crucified. Forgive us, heal us, redeem us, Lead us from death to eternal life. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a right Spirit within us Nurture the faint stirrings of new life where your spirit has taken root and begun to grow. Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin. We long for your healing light to transform us into the image of your Son, For you alone can bring new life and make us whole. In your mercy, shine upon us, O God, and make our path clear before us.*

**Deuteronomy 26: 1-11**

*When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship - the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honoured. Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him:*

**Men:** **With this gift I acknowledge to the Lord your God that I have entered the land he swore to our ancestors he would give us.** *The priest will then take the basket from your hand and set it before the altar of the Lord your God. You must then say in the presence of the Lord your God:*

**All:** **My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went to live as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but in Egypt they became a large and mighty**

nation. When the Egyptians oppressed and humiliated us by making us their slaves, we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. He heard our cries and saw our hardship, toil, and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and powerful arm, with overwhelming terror, and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey! And now, O Lord, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground.

Women: Then place the produce before the Lord your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him. Afterward you may go and celebrate because of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration.

Continuing the conversation

Hymn: I hunger and I thirst (4-5) **198**

**Intercessory Prayers** *Things that clutter and consume,*

**We lay them down.**

*Attitudes that separate and divide,*

**We lay them down.**

*Thoughts that confuse and disrupt,*

**We lay them down.**

*Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again,*

**We lay them down.**

(we continue in prayer)

**Invitation:** As we follow Jesus into the unknown journey of lent, may we recognise the tempter when temptation comes; let it be Christ's bread we eat, Christ's world we serve and Christ alone we worship. Hymn: In suffering love (verses 1-3)

**696**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Pour out your Holy Spirit on all gathered here, that we might be your light in the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit*

*on these gifts of bread and wine, that we might be infused with the gift of your nourishing guidance. Transform us with your nourishing grace, even as we eat of this bread and drink of this wine.*

*Transfigure us to be your presence in the world, even as we are redeemed and reclaimed by your great love. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honour and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. (Continue in prayer)*

Hymn: In suffering love (verses 4-5)

**696**

## Communion

### Prayer following communion

Hymn: Lead me Lord

**575**

*May the God of creation breathe on you, May the God of all life sustain you, May the God of all Gods grant you forgiveness. Go into the day knowing your life has been touched by the triune God. You are cleansed by the mercy of God; You are surrounded by the love of Christ; You are filled with the power of the Spirit. Amen*

“The doctrine of the covenant lies at the root of all true theology. It has been said that the one who well understands the distinction between the covenant of works and the covenant of grace, is a master of divinity. I am persuaded that most of the mistakes which are made concerning the doctrines of Scripture, are based upon fundamental errors with regard to the covenant of law and of grace. May God grant us now the power to instruct, and you the grace to receive instruction on this vital subject.” - C.H. Spurgeon