

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
APRIL 7TH 2013**



The acts of the early church

With the death and resurrection of Jesus, the early church formed around the apostles now filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and began a ministry which continues to this day. As we follow the early church we find our own foundation and the basis of our faith.

Let's celebrate the amazing grace that in Christ's resurrection

We are still loved even at our most outrageous.

The Lord has given us the music, all we need to do is dance!

Come to the Easter party!! (Ann Weems)

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Hymn: The strife is o'er (verses 1-2) **257**

Prayer of Confession: *God of empty tombs and empty people:
when we hesitate to speak of your hope,*

forgive us, and give us voice.

When we find it difficult to love another,

forgive us, and give us new compassion.

When we want to stand with the high and mighty,

forgive us, and put us next to the poor and oppressed.

When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,

forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.

When we cannot believe your Word of new life,

forgive us, and fill us with your joy

Hymn: He is Lord

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Scripture: Acts 5:27-32 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Hymn: The strife is o'er (verses 3-4) **257**

The strife is o'er, the battle won? You've got to be kidding! But what is true is this:

You can't stop God's mission!

- **Repentance and forgiveness**
- **Love for God and for all**
- **Salvation for the world**
- **Folks can try to stop it outright.**
- **Folks can get it completely wrong**
- **Folks can argue about it**
- **Folks can deny it.**

But folks can't stop it.

God's mission is unstoppable.

"In these few verses are the whole of the apostolic witness packed in a nutshell. This lesson provides an occasion to hear and

announce that Easter message once again, now coupled with the bold witness and confident life in community that it evidently inspires. We, too, join these apostolic witnesses in the sure and certain truth that God has raised Jesus from the dead, that God has exalted him to be our leader and Savior, and has done so in order that we may receive God's gift of repentance and forgiveness that is ours in the present and living power of the Spirit. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! **(James Boyce)**

Hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord (1-2) **260**

Centering Prayer

When nothing is right,
when we are weary and lost,
when clouds dull the sky,
help us to be still. (silent prayer)

When our cries are unheeded,
when no effort bears fruit,
when the sun sets,
help us to be still. (silent prayer)

When love is over,
when hope is gone,
when darkness covers the land,
help us to be still. (silent prayer)

For in being still,
in refusing to panic or despair,
we shall come to know that God is there,
suffering alongside and with us,
waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters,
and to help us sing a new song. (silent prayer) ~ written by Kate Compston

Hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord (3-4) **260**

Invitation:

The celebration of communion is always
a festival of friends,
where we gather around the table
with all our hopes and dreams,

longing for a glimpse of the holy.
It is here where bread is broken and the cup is shared
that we can be most truly ourselves
and see ourselves and others
as sons and daughters of the living God.
Here, that which is earthly becomes divine
and that which is human
becomes more than it has ever dreamed. So come to the
table – you are all welcome. Come - Christ is here to meet us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. **God's spirit is with us.***
*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.*** *Let us give thanks to the*
*Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.***
(Continue in thanksgiving)

Hymn: Come to us, beloved Stranger (verses 1-2) **262**

Communion

Prayer after communion (together) We give thanks, O God,
because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to
us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest
needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope.
Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus
Christ, that we too may become bread and peace for one
another and the world. Amen

Hymn: Come to us, beloved Stranger (verse 3) **262**

Go from here as witnesses of what you have seen and heard.
Share God's love with those you meet.
Bring hope to those who are in despair.
Live lives of gratitude and praise.
And may the love of God,
the peace of Jesus Christ,
and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit
be within you and among you until we meet again. **Amen.**