

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David EASTER March 31, 2013



CULMINATION OF THE COVENANT

We were created for covenant keeping ...and yet, we are in danger of becoming a blindhearted people

Hymn: Hallelujah

532

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Prayer of Confession: **Lord, God our Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit, give light to our eyes, that we may see your light, the brightly shining light of reconciliation! For this is the greatest sickness, when one cannot see the light, even during the day. Free us from this sickness, us and all Christians who celebrate Easter either well or poorly, the entire human community, both near and far, who are again and again being confused and endangered anew. (Karl Barth)**

Hymn: Christ is alive!

(1-2)

836

Scripture: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Hymn: Christ is alive!

(3-4)

836

In Search of New Resurrections

by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

We in the church are in danger ...of becoming a tearless people, unable to rage even in a starless abyss. We have imitated a smiling society, ...glossing over the hurt, the oppression, ...the peacelessness on earth, or we have become caustic ...and cynical and despairing, insisting on looking the other way

...as our church members crawl to the altar, the scraps of their lives in their arms. **We were created for covenant keeping**

...and yet, we are in danger of becoming a blindhearted people,
...buying into the system, placing our hope with kings and corporations.

Have we not seen? Have we not heard? We persist in clinging

...to the way things are, or eagerly placing our faith

...in the newest religious fad,

...the latest book on how-to Christianity

...(in ten easy steps),

...or the current slogans

...presented as though they were

...the Word of God.

We are programming and papering ourselves

...into perpetuity, and rationalizing and excusing

...our immorality.

We spend our energy in complaining,

...gloomily forecasting our future together. We panic for positions

...in employment and committee, with each special interest group

...vying for first place in the kingdom.

Perhaps it's time for remembering

...that Jesus stood in the Jordan

...to be baptized with the others, long ago casting his lot,

...not with the good church people,

...but with the poor wherever that poverty might emerge.

His name is Emmanuel,

...and yet, individually and corporately,

...we have named him "GOD-WITH-ME."

Have we not seen? Have we not heard?

In the light of the cross,

...the alternative is anything but hopelessness.

On the contrary!

There is every scriptural indication

...that we are called to change

...who we are into the kingdom of God.

When change is possible,

...new resurrections loom!

Hymn: Christ is alive! (5)

836

Invitation: The oldest name Christians have for the feast we share today is "Eucharist," which simply means "thanksgiving." This

name for the meal emphasizes the deep gratitude we have for the grace and sustenance we receive from God. Whatever name we use, this is a covenant meal of hope and of joy shared with Christ and those whom God loves and those who love God.

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) **Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed, in one another. Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Hymn: This is the feast of victory (verses 1 and 5) 246

Communion

A reflection after Holy Communion

We who were no people are named anew- Easter people – people of the resurrection now in everlasting covenant with the Christ who is risen from the dead.

Hymn: Thine be the glory 258

We came to prepare for the holiest of weeks. We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts. Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us. We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk. Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us. Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God. (Tom Shuman)