

## WELCOME TO...

### The Presbyterian Church of Saint David APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 Sunday before Earth Day



#### 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.*

*Let the scriptures remind us that resurrection is a present reality for those who  
know the one who is the resurrection and the life.*

*Christ is risen!*

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Hymn: At the dawning of salvation

248

Prayer of Confession: *O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the minds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.*

Hymn: Christ has died

523

Scripture: Acts 9: **36** Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas (gazelle). She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. **37** At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. **38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." **39** So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

#### Acts: "Devoted to Good Works"

Tabitha was widely known for her works of mercy to all in her local community, especially the clothing she made for widows. Who in your congregation or community have clearly devoted their lives to such works of mercy? How might you display some

signs of these works of mercy in worship today?

**Doctrine:** We continue the works of mercy of the Risen One.

**Ministry:** What are the "good works and acts of charity" to which you are devoted or will devote yourself?

"The gospel looks out over a world characterized by death, illness, and loss and yet declares that eternal life is the new order of the day, that Jesus himself embodies and assures us of the promise that death will not have the last word and that no boundary can ever cleave us apart from one another." (Eric Baretto)

Hymn: God of the sparrow (vs. 1-3) 307

### Centering Prayer

God of light and life,  
we see you in the rising sun,  
the golden fields of new daffodils,  
and the feel of a spring shower.  
Help us to see your light reflected throughout creation.

*(reflect on the spring of creation)*

God of compassion,  
you are there with those people  
who are facing the effects of a changing climate,  
and are affected by floods, droughts and famine.  
Show us how to be there with them too.

*(reflect on our care of creation)*

God of truth and justice,  
you hear those people around the world,  
who struggle to make their voices heard.  
Open our ears, and the ears of those in power  
to hear the cries of those living in poverty.

*(reflect on the people of creation)*

God of hope,  
we see you in people who refuse to give up,  
who will not lose faith and keep on fighting,  
for your earth and for your people.  
Lift us, so that we may never lose hope. Amen

— written by Michaela McGuigan

Hymn: God of the sparrow (4-6)

307

### Invitation:

The table is now prepared for us - we all have a place.  
We are invited to share in the feast of God's presence,  
celebrating here and now all that is meant by being alive.  
The Spirit of God moves in every corner of the world  
in every age and through all time,  
calling people to renew their hope and joy.

**At this table we come together as the guests of Jesus.**

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) O God, giver of all that is good,*

**We thank you for this bread and this fruit of the vine,  
symbols of the harvest of your good earth, and we look to the  
day when we will all eat together as your holy people.**

### Communion

**Prayer after Communion** *We give you thanks, O God, that you have blessed us at this table, as you bless us at all our tables. May our eating and drinking together be a sign of your kingdom as we go forth in your name to love and serve the world.*

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing (verse 1) 775

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;  
No hands but yours;  
No feet but yours;  
Yours are the eyes  
Through which is to look out Christ's compassion to the world;  
Yours are the feet  
With which he is to go about doing good;  
Yours are the hands  
With which he is to bless now. ~ Teresa of Avila (16<sup>th</sup> century).

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing (verse 2) 775