

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David May 26, 2013 TRINITY



CREATING A NEW CONCEPT

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. This affected how the early community spoke of its experience of God and their understanding of the nature of God.

Loving God, we are limited in our understanding of you, but we know that you care for us and for all creation. Thank you for loving us and remaining with us in our sorrows and joys. Thank you for the life of Jesus whose life shows us the way to life and happiness and trust.

Thank you for your Spirit who leads us. Warm our hearts and unite us, that we might open our lives to you to accept all your love and to respond to it by entrusting ourselves to you with all that you have made us and given us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

(1-2)

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Prayer of Confession: *Holy God, your cry for wisdom and understanding echoes in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our church committee meetings, our legislatures and our courts. We confess we don't always want to hear that cry, deciding instead to rely on familiar habits, comfortable assumptions, and quick conclusions.*

We ask you to show us another way, O God. Show us another way.

Assurance of Pardon: *Friends, hear this great good news: God continually shows us another way.*

God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. *So let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love through the Holy Spirit.*

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

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Scripture: **Proverbs 8: 1-4; 22-31** Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

Reflection by Kate Huey An unusual character steps onto the biblical stage this week, so unusual that no one seems to be able to

explain exactly who (or even what) she is--except that she is definitely a "she," this "Woman Wisdom," "Lady Wisdom," or, as Eugene Peterson translates it in *The Message*, "Madame Insight." Rebecca Kruger Gaudino notes this mysterious figure's familiar connections with poetry, creation, and God's own attribute of wisdom. However, scholars also associate this mysterious figure with ancient echoes of goddess worship, as well as with the Word in the Prologue to John's Gospel (that is, with Jesus Christ), and with the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) in that same Gospel. While the last two associations reflect Christian understandings of the second and third persons in the Trinity, it's important to engage Lady Wisdom first as a powerful Old Testament figure, standing there, on the heights and in the crossroads, on her own two feet.

Our passage is from a long poem that introduces the proverbs themselves, in which Woman Wisdom speaks of her joyful, helpful presence at creation. We hear that God's Wisdom established the way things are, not blind chance, or random events, or the outcome of some primeval conflict; not a detached god, or worse, an evil one. Trinity Sunday is a good time to be still, to perceive God's grace-full hand at work in creation, to reflect on God's love made flesh and living among us, and to give thanks for God's Spirit, whose power sustains us right now, in this beautiful but hurting world.

1. What wisdom might be gained in sitting still for twenty minutes and paying attention to our surroundings?
2. What difference does it make to speak of wisdom as something of the heart rather than of the head?
3. What might we learn about God, and about wisdom, "in the most public of places"?
4. Does the universe make sense to you? Where do you see order, and where do you see chaos?
5. What's the "proper" next step after awe?

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (4)

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Invitation: *We come to the table - all of us welcome.*

We invite God to be part of us - all of us breaking bread together.

We prepare to remember Jesus - all of us touched by the Spirit of truth. : We hope to be empowered by our feast - all of us with hearts burning inside like the flame of Pentecost.

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.*

Communion Prayer: *In the beginning there was only God: the Creator dreamed, giving birth to a vision; the Word spoke, calling the universe into being; the Breath swept through all things, bringing life.*

Breathe on me verse 1 389

In the beginning, O God, there was only you. Be our guide, our hope and our joy. As you led your people Israel, as you led Sara and Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, Moses and David, Mary and Joseph, lead us.

Breathe on me verse 2 389

In the beginning, O God, there was only you: Creator, Word and Breath.

And from that beginning we see our birth. From that beginning we see our salvation. *From that beginning we see our source of life.*

Breathe on me verse 3 389

For the promise of our salvation, the ember of life still burning, is Christ Jesus who comes as one of us, who comes to save us, who sends us the fire of your Spirit, who comes to lead us into the light.

Breathe on me verse 4 389

Communion

Prayer after Communion: *Through the great Comforter, Advocate, our faithful Guide, we have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal one: God of love, as you have blessed this meal, bless now our work and our words, that we may extend your welcome to the world in what we do and by who we are. May the Spirit's power make it so. Amen.*

Hymn: Glorify thy name

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