

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
July 07, 2013**

Early Morning Service

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended."

Hymn: When Israel was in Egypt's land (1-3)

708

A Prayer for Today: *Here in the company of the neighbour whom we know and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn, we ask to love as Jesus loved. Make this the place and time, good Lord, when heaven and earth merge into one, and we in word and flesh can grasp that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither male nor female. Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer and will be faithful to your promise to answer us. When our eyes open again, may they do so not to end our devotions, but to expect your Kingdom, for Jesus' sake.*

Hymn: When Israel was in Egypt's land (4-5)

708

Prayer of Confession: *We do not want you to know how our lives do not proclaim your good news, God of all hearts. But you have heard the words we have spoken which injure those we love.*

You see how insistent we can be in clinging to the ways we have always lived, rather than walking your new paths. We have trouble believing that when our souls are empty and our hearts have only a small portion of love, that you can do miracles in and through us.

So, what we need to know is that you do indeed forgive us, and still love us. God of comfort, let your grace shower us and end the drought of fear and doubt in our lives, so we can believe the good news which comes to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Focus Reading **Exodus 6:1-6** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land." **2** God also spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the Lord. **3** I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God

Almighty, but by my name "The Lord' I did not make myself known to them. **4** I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. **5** I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** Say therefore to the Israelites, "I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

Freedom, deliverance, liberation... in the mouth of one a great hope. In the mouth of another the beginning of terror and violence. Moses 'killed' in the cause of his peoples' freedom. Mandela resorted to violent acts to combat apartheid.

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death."

Hymn: We are marching **639**

Invitation *Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears. May we who share these gifts share Christ with one another and all God's people.*

This is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. *So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his. The Sacrament of Bread and Wine – where God comes to meet us in the ordinary things of the earth that God has made holy – wheat and grapes, food and drink for our souls and for our bodies, grown in the soil, watered by the rain,*

ripened by the sun, fashioned by human hands so that the divine purpose may once again be fulfilled.

Liturgy at the table Jesus, we are gathered **514**

Distribution

Response to the sacrament Hallelujah **532**

*May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go. **And the blessing of God be upon us. The blessing of the God of life. The blessing of Christ be upon us, the blessing of the Christ of love. The blessing of the Spirit be upon us, the blessing of the Spirit of grace. The blessing of the Trinity be upon us. Now and forevermore. Amen.***

Hymn: May the Lord bless you **553**