

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
June 02, 2013**

Early Morning Service

Finding faith in the strangest places



*Thanks be to You, O God, that I have risen today,
To the rising of this life itself;*

**May it be to your own glory, O God of every gift
And to the glory of my soul likewise.**

Hymn: Morning has broken

814

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: Jesus' hands were kind hands

631

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 Luke 7:1-10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to

come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Reflection on the text

Echoes and amazement: that's what we encounter in this week's story from the Gospel of Luke. When a foreign military officer requests that Jesus the prophet heal his servant, we hear echoes of another military commander long ago, another foreigner, another "other," Naaman, the Aramean commander and enemy of Israel, who seeks healing from his leprosy from Elisha, "the man of God" (2 Kings 5). And when Jesus is "amazed" by the faith of the centurion, we hear echoes of the amazement of so many others already in the Gospel of Luke. Michael Card provides a litany of these folks: "Zechariah's neighbors, those who heard the shepherds, Joseph and Mary, those who heard the boy Jesus in the temple, those who heard the adult Jesus in the synagogues at both Nazareth and Capernaum, Peter and his partners, and finally those who witnessed the healing of the paralytic" were all amazed by the things happening before their eyes, and now Jesus himself is amazed by the faith of an outsider.

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 Here is bread, here is wine **546**

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**