

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
June 09, 2013

Early Morning Service

Finding faith in the strangest places



Hymn: Let us hope vs 1&2

792

Prayer of Confession: *We think life is all about us- our desires, our needs, our achievements. Let us confess our faulty lives, as we open ourselves to God's healing grace, praying together, We do not want you to know how our lives do not proclaim your good news, God of all hearts. 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.*

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Focus Reading** Luke 7:11-17 Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

**Reflection on the text by Lia Scholl**

**Context is Essential** Before we get to the way we heal, let's understand the story place the story in Jesus' life. He's just called the disciples, and he's speaking on a plain (it's Luke's equivalent of the Sermon on the Mount). He's given the Beatitudes, told them to love their enemies, to worry about the log in their own eye before worrying about the speck in someone else's eye. Then he healed the centurion's servant, and now we have him approaching a funeral procession.

**#1: Pay Attention** We have to be paying attention. Jesus is walking along, sees a funeral procession and notices the mother of the deceased boy or man. He notices her. Do we, as the church, notice when people are in pain? Do we look on Sunday morning when we preach, into the faces of those we love, and register when we see tears? Do we notice the anger cross their face? Do we even notice if people are present or absent? We have to pay attention, if we're going to minister.

**#2: Care** How easy it would have been for Jesus to just walk on by. No one expected him to heal every sick or dead person who crossed his path.

**#3: Be Willing to Feel** We have to be willing to feel. The NIV translates this passage as **“his heart went out to her.”** We have to be willing to hurt. That's what compassion is. To share in someone's pain.

**#4: Healing Can Happen** Healing can happen if the other things are in place. It may not be supernatural, immediate healing. But healing can happen, through long term walking alongside people, through being with them on a day-in and day-out basis, through listening, caring, holding, and loving. Healing can happen.

## PRAYER

We pray for those who are struggling because they are widows or widowers, for those who are bereaved having experienced the death of someone important to them whom they loved and still love. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who are ill or near death, those known to us and those unknown to us but known to you.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

In silence we lift up those people and situations uppermost in our thinking today...(silent prayers for those in need)

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

And hear us as we sum up all our prayers in the words Jesus taught us.... **Our Father...**

Hymn: **Let us hope** vs 3

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**Invitation** *Come, for all things are now ready.* **There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people.**

*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.*

## Great Thanksgiving

*Liturgy at the table* Eat this bread 527

## Distribution

**Response to the sacrament** Hallelujah 532

*We give you thanks, O God, for calling us together and for sustaining us with this holy meal. **This place is sacred, this time is sacred, and in this place and this time we have shared a mystery.** May we in every place and time recognize the sacredness of life and may we accept the mystery as we accept your love – with joyful faith and eternal hope. In Christ's name. Amen.*

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us 554