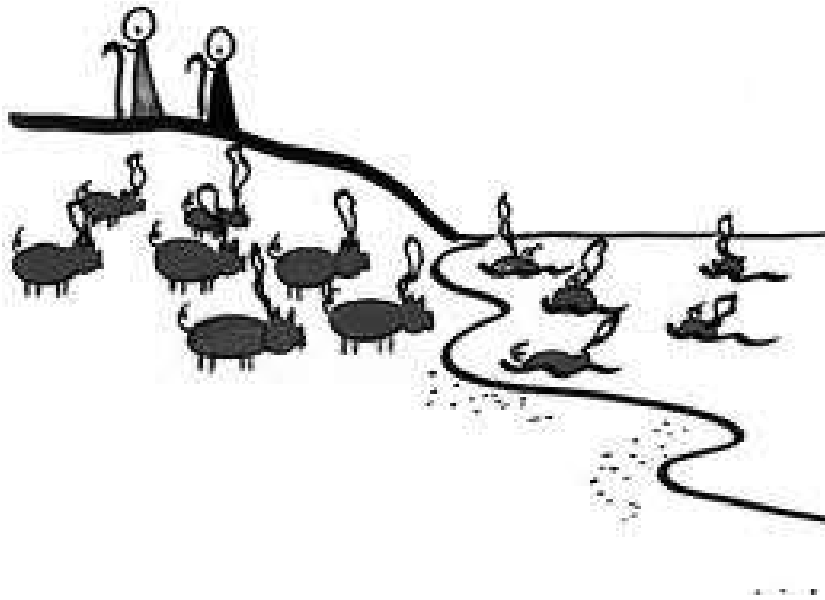


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
June 23, 2013

Early Morning Service

## DEALING WITH THE DEMONS



Hymn: Silence! Frenzied unclean spirit (1-2) 729

Prayer of Confession:

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hymn: Silence! Frenzied unclean spirit (3) 729

**Focus Reading Luke 8:26-39** Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one

who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

**Creating a conversation:** We have trouble talking intelligently about demons. Jesus, of course, had no such difficulty. He did battle with the powers of evil all the time, sometimes in the form of demonic spirits, sometimes in the form of seemingly good, law-abiding religious folks. In this morning's text, the encounter takes place in a rural area, at other times in a synagogue or simply part of the 'every day.'

"We are living in a culture that is responding to its fears more than it is being shaped by its hopes." And when we are fearful, all kinds of demons tempt us. What demons are in your life?

If the name of the demon(s) is Legion, what are the many things that are 'demonic' in your life?

Perhaps evil's biggest success is that by disguising itself amidst human disease and illness it has managed to convince us that it doesn't exist.

Hymn: Remember not, O God

47

**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.*

*This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. We come, because it is Christ who invites us.*

Hymn: Let us break bread together 548

Great Thanksgiving

**Distribution**

**Response to the sacrament** May the Lord bless you 553

*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: Go now in peace

622