

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
July 21, 2013**

Early Morning Service

WITH THIS ONE LIFE



Gathering: God is ready to satisfy those who thirst for goodness, and those who are hungry for grace, will be filled with good things.

Let us in prayer make our confession... *If we were self-sufficient, and had all the answers, we would not be here, all-wise God.*

If our achievements matched our aims and if our deeds perfectly reflected our holist vows, we would not be so spiritually hungry, God of truth and grace.

If we had cared for our neighbours with the love of Jesus Christ, and cherished our loved ones without selfishness or impatience, we would not be seeking your mercy, redeeming God.

Hymn: Take my life and let it be

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James describes for us the kind of attitude that Christians should have about their life. The basis of our attitude, that I believe James describes, is that Christians are people who know that they have one life to live and it counts how you live it."

Focus Reading James 4 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." 14 Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

Hymn: Lord, I want to be a Christian

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All of us have things in our mind that we know God wants us to do or know of some good thing we can do for our neighbour. James says that if we know what we should be doing and don't do it, we sin. What might cause us not to do something we know we should:

- Get distracted by our own life problems and issues (Rich Young Ruler, Prodigal Son)
- Get scared to do what God has said (Moses)
- We just don't want to do what God wants (Jonah)
- We end up choosing to do what we want instead of God (Adam and Eve)

James is encouraging us to find out what we ought to be doing and make every effort to be doing those things while we live on this earth.

You hold nothing back from us, Amazing God, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. We spend so much time eating out, we cannot feel the deep ache our hunger for you causes. You invite us to set aside our old ways, and walk with you, but unknown paths fill us with fear.

Have mercy on us, Bread of Heaven. We come to the Table of grace and hope, not for our personal satisfaction, but for the joy of recognizing the One who calls us to new life, and for the grace to share this joy with everyone we meet. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Silence is kept)

Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

God loves us.

God forgives us.

God lifts us to new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen. (written by Thom Shuman)

Hymn: I come with joy (verses 1-2)

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Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Pour out your Holy Spirit on all gathered here, that we might be your light in the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that we might be infused with the gift of your nourishing guidance. Transform us with your nourishing grace, even as we eat of this bread and drink of this wine.*

Transfigure us to be your presence in the world, even as we are redeemed and reclaimed by your great love. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honour and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. (Continue in prayer)

Hymn: I come with joy (verses 3-5)

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Communion

Prayer after communion

Go now, trusting in God's promises. Seek the presence of the Lord and abandon yourself to prayer. Follow those who are faithful to God, stand firm against evil and seek healing for all. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: May the Lord bless you

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