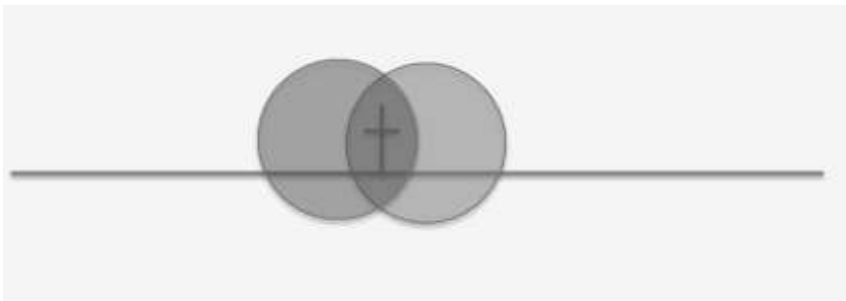


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
August 25, 2013

Early Morning Service

FINDING THE PLACE OF HEALING



Come, all you who are struggling. Come, all you who are crippled by pain and suffering. Come to worship a God who heals your pain. Come to worship a God who gives forgiveness. Let us worship God, who sets us free and gives us new life!

Let us pray: *Merciful God, as we pour out the wealth you have entrusted to us, the parched places are watered; as we cease our evil talk, the rising light of peace dawns in the darkness. So lead us into faithful living that your promises may unfold in us as a woman's back, long bent, unfolds at Christ's command, to the praise of your holy name. O Jesus, we are grateful for your mercy and compassion. You healed all those, that approached you in faith. In your suffering and death, you redeemed my infirmities and those of the human race. I join my suffering to yours, and ask for your healing mercy. Give me the strength and courage to overcome all adversities. Amen.*

~ written by David Bennett

Hymn: When Jesus the healer (vs 1-4)

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Focus Reading Luke 13:10-17 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Hymn: When Jesus the healer (vs 4-7)

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On the way to Jerusalem, while Jesus is teaching in a synagogue, a "bent-over" woman passing by evokes Jesus' compassion. Does the woman ask for healing? No. Does Jesus seem to care that it's the Sabbath, when healing non-life-threatening conditions is not permitted? No. Without being asked, he calls her over to him, and sets her free from her long-time ailment by placing his hands on her, just as one would in blessing. And the woman is blessed, and freed, and has sense enough to recognize the source of the freedom she's been given at last, freedom from the little bit of square footage she's been limited to visually for almost twenty years. Now, is everyone amazed and grateful to witness such a thing? No, indeed. The leader of the synagogue is in fact upset by this breach of the Law and tells the crowd, which undoubtedly includes many others in need of healing (aren't we all?), that they should come back tomorrow, when the timing will be more "appropriate" for such things as healing...

Focus Questions to where we might go.

1. What kinds of healing might we offer to those we may or may not notice in our places of worship?
2. In what ways do we hinder liberation and healing for the sake of rules and tradition?
3. Is the suffering of some people easier to avoid than others, or to miss entirely?
4. Have you ever experienced grace coming to you, even when you didn't have the strength or confidence to ask for it?
5. How do you imagine the bent-over woman's life was different, the day after she was healed? *(comments and questions from Kate Huey)*

Hymn: Sometimes a healing word is comfort

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Invitation: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke

it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him. This is the Lord's table. Our Saviour invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.* (Continue in prayer)

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.

Hymn: All who hunger

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Communion

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise vs 1-2

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Prayer after communion *Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: I'm gonna live

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