

**WELCOME TO...**  
**The Presbyterian Church of**  
**Saint David**  
**October 06, 2013 Early Morning Service**  
**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**THE TABLE WILL BE WIDE (JAN RICHARDSON)**



*And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide.  
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.  
And our hearts will open wide to receive.*

*And we will come as children who trust there is enough.  
And we will come unhindered and free.  
And our aching will be met with bread.  
And our sorrow will be met with wine.  
And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.  
And we will turn toward each other without fear.  
And we will give up our appetite for despair.  
And we will taste and know of delight.  
And we will become bread for a hungry world.  
And we will become drink for those who thirst.  
And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.*

Hymn: One bread, one body (vs. 1-2)

**540**

*Come, all you who are thirsty.*  
**We come to drink from the cup of salvation.**  
*Come, all you who are hungry.*  
**We come to eat the bread of life.**  
*Here, at the Lord's table, we will eat and drink what is good.*  
**Our souls will delight in the richest fare.**  
*Let us gather now as a family around the table.*  
**Let us worship God together.**

Hymn: One bread, one body (vs. 3-4)

**540**

**Focus Reading**    **Ephesians 2: 13-22**    "... now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. **15** He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, **16** and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. **17** So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; **18** for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and

aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, **20** built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. **21** In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**For Reflection and Conversation** Pastor Craig Schaub wrote: .  
"We celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October, as a recollection of the universal church gathered at table in celebration of the presence of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit....When we gather at table, we celebrate a number of core components that the ecumenical community agrees are manifest in the Eucharist (the Greek word for 'giving thanks'). Holy Communion is an act of God's grace. It is an act of thanks for all God has done in creating and saving. It is an act of remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. It is the work of the Holy Spirit who prompts our remembering, our thanking, and our hoping. It is a family meal of nourishment, justice-seeking, and inclusion. It is an act that makes visible our future hope with God and all of God's people."

"I am bothered by the presence of this wall. I feel it growing even between myself and my family members and friends. I don't like the wall. But I am not surprised by the wall. Dividing walls of hostility are common enough features on the human landscape. When Paul writes his letter to the Ephesians, he takes for granted that the wall is there. In this case the wall between Jew and Gentile. The wall is a given. What is exciting to Paul—the *good* news he wants to share—is that Christ has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. We create the walls. Christ rips them down. Drags us all beyond the walls to the throne of God - together.

Hymn: I come with joy (1-3) **530**

## Invitation

*Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers*

**from above and below the equator,  
from the North and from Down Under,  
from every time zone around the globe.**

*As today's sunlight inches across land and sea Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome.  
Come, for the meal is ready!*

Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ **563**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(adapted from A Wee Worship Book)*  
For us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again. Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, for all that you have done and all that you have promised, we praise you and give you honour and glory! Send down your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and cup, that through you we may be healed, forgiven, and made whole, and that for you we may be your body, united together, loving and caring in the world until you kingdom comes. United in our love for you and one another, we join together in the prayer that you taught your friends, saying: *Our Father...*

## Communion

### Prayer following communion

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer:*

**Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal.  
Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity.  
Thank you for this day which we worship and serve you.**

Hymn: I come with joy (4-5) **530**