

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
September 22, 2013

Early Morning Service

"A LIVING FAITH IN THE SHAPE OF PRAYER"



*Soren Kierkegaard,
"Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays."*

Who is like our God, the One who looks down from the heights on the heavens on the earth?

From the rising of the sun to it setting, we will praise the name of the Lord!

This is our God, the Holy One. Come with thanksgiving and offer the sacrifice of praise.

Hymn: Prayer is the soul's sincere desire (1-2)

660

Prayer of Confession: *God of Grace, we bring to you our ingratitude for all that you have done for us, our impatience when prayers seem to be ignored, our selfishness when prompted to give or share, our unfaithfulness when wandering from your way. We ask for your forgiveness.*

May our actions embody our prayers for the healing of the community and therein may we find our long awaited wholeness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: *This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins. Thanks be to God.*

Hymn: Prayer is the soul's sincere desire (3-5)

660

Focus Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald

and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

For Reflection and Conversation

“A living faith in the shape of prayer - including prayers for rulers, although “perhaps we should note,” Fred Craddock writes “that the passage only calls for supplications to be made on behalf of ruling authorities,” and does not impose “submission” to them (Preaching through the Christian Year C). The need of prayer for those in leadership positions represents the hopes for freedom of expression of individuals’ own faith beliefs regardless of their socioeconomic status, color, race, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, as well as the hope of gaining the respect which is innate to each one of us. This is not to assume that Christians will be submissive to those who rule, but rather they will join sincere and perhaps challenging efforts (those which speak truth to power) with those in leadership positions. Perhaps they will also join forces with those who have different beliefs from their own. “Being prayerful for political leaders is one thing,” Craddock writes; “being blindly submissive to them is quite another” (Preaching through the Christian Year C).”

“How, then, are we to make our way and to live faithfully in a country where we are, for the most part, free from the persecution suffered by these early Christians, in fact, where the “powers that be” actually call themselves Christian? The letter provides important and helpful instructions: remember that there is one God (“God is God, and you’re not”) and that God loves every single person and doesn’t want to lose a single one (last week’s reading about lost coins and sheep is helpful here), and, in every case, pray always. Eugene Peterson’s translation begins with the words, “The first thing I want you to do is pray” (*The Message*). If we pray in all things and in all times, perhaps it won’t be so hard to get along with one another, and with our rulers and kings, as we make our way toward the truth.” (from Sermon Seeds, United Church of Christ).

Hymn: Sweet is the solemn voice that calls

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Invitation:

Come, all you who are loved by God, Come, and be fed with the food that God gives freely; Come, and quench your thirst from the Waters of Life; Come, and let your spirits be filled again with the goodness of your Creator.

Lord God, Giver of all good things, We hear Your invitation, we see Your gifts of life and grace. We have come, we have tasted and we know... God, You are good. Amen.

Hymn: An Upper Room (verses 1-2)

224

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *We gather here, Gracious God, with hearts of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks for all the gifts with which you have blessed us:*

**for the Created world in which we live,
for family and friends with whom we share our lives,
for food on our plates and roofs over our heads.
for all those things that make life abundant ...time of
silent prayer... we offer our thanks and praise.**

Communion

Prayer following communion

You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope.

Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

Hymn: An Upper Room (verses 4)

224

*God provides a living and breathing faith,
one in which Christ mediates with God,
and God acts with us through Christ.*

