

## WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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### Preparing for worship:

- “Share Christ’s peace” is a phrase that carries with it mystery and challenge.
- What exactly is Christ’s peace? Wearing the letters “WWJD?” was a recent popular fad. These four simple letters were a call to inquiry:
- What would Jesus do if confronted with contemporary challenges? The challenge is in exploring the plausibility

and potential of Jesus’ responses to situations and then incorporating the underlying principles into our lives.

**Gathering:** *May the joy of the advent season with its message of mighty hope be with you all! And also with you!*

*We begin Advent by celebrating the expectation that the Christ who came, who comes again to be with us in every age and every place, and who will come again in a glorious finality to consummate the healing work which he began at Bethlehem. He shall judge between nations, and arbitrate between many races; they shall beat the swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

*~ written by Bruce Prewer,*

The peace candle

Hymn: O day of peace that dimly shines

732

Prayer of Confession: *O God beyond time, we are an impatient people. As the days grow shorter and the darkness longer, teach us to wait with faithful expectation. In this time of worship, open our eyes and hearts to the Advent blessings in our midst. May every day be a day of gratitude for your compassion and grace. Through the guidance of your Spirit, lead each one of us in the pathways that make for peace. In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray. Amen.* *(Sharing the Peace of Christ)*

Hymn: Isaiah the prophet has written of old

782

Scripture: Isaiah 11 **The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;**

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

“The angels did not sing, “Peace on earth for all people. ...  
Peace on earth carte blanche....” Rather, the song of peace adds a  
crucial ingredient, “with whom God is well pleased;’ that is,  
people who do the will of God will find peace. ...Do you long  
for peace? Do you long for peace in your marriage? Do you long  
for peace in your family? Do you long for peace in yourself? Do  
you long for peace among the nations? Yes, we all do.” (from:  
Sermons from Seattle)

### Our prayer for PEACE

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;**  
*where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;*  
*where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;*  
*where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.*  
**Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**  
**to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love;**  
*for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are*  
**pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Hymn: Put peace into each other’s hands (1-2) **560**

**Invitation:** *When Jesus gathered his friends in farewell he offered them the  
gift of peace. This is our peace. Through this promise of peace we retain  
the presence of the Prince of Peace and shared in a foretaste of God’s reign.*  
**This is our peace.** *A coming reign where all are welcome, worthy, and  
invited. This is our peace. When people sit at table with Jesus lives are  
transformed and empowered. This is our peace. In hope come to the table  
spread for you. All people, including each of us, are invited to  
share in this sacred meal of celebration, and be strengthened  
by the presence of God in this place. This is our peace.*

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 thanksgiving) *Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this  
bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our  
eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we*

might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed, in one  
another. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Hymn: Put peace into each other’s hands (3-4) **560**

### Communion

#### A Reflection after Holy Communion

“The phrase ‘the peace of Jesus Christ’ contains all of the  
promises, hopes, and blessings of the gospel as revealed by Christ  
and as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, his promised presence with us.  
In all of the places in our lives where we are afraid, anxious,  
discouraged, guilt-ridden, or alienated, Jesus Christ speaks ‘peace’  
and opens the way to peace, not just for individuals, but for the  
whole of creation” (Stephen M. Veazey)

Hymn: Put peace into each other’s hands (5) **560**

Peace to the nations, east and west,  
peace to our neighbors, near and far,  
peace to all women, peace to all men,  
the peace of Christ above all peace.

Going deeper:

<http://worshipleader.com/peace-in-the-midst-of-turmoil/>

