

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
November 03, 2013

Early Morning Service



O God, you are righteous **Transform us by your Word!**
Your judgments are upright **Transform us by your Word!**
Your precepts are unforgettable **Transform us by your Word!**
Give us understanding and we will live **Re-form us, reconcile us,**
Transform us by your Word!

Hymn: We have heard a joyful sound

681

Opening Prayer: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace. God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

Rich, poor; young, old; sinner, saint:

We are all God's children,
and God transforms each of us
into the people we are meant to be.

**Broken, we are mended;
separated from others, we are made one;
longing to serve, we are sent forth.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Hymn: I'm gonna live (1-2)

648

Focus Reading Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Reflection by Kate Huey

One last outcast on the way to Jerusalem: Zacchaeus, whose name means "clean" or "innocent," is, surprisingly, unclean and a sinner. (Aren't we used to such reversals by now in the Gospel of Luke?) However, Jesus is really the main character in this little story: while the tax collector is scrambling to see him (surely it took more than curiosity to make him sacrifice his dignity by running and climbing a tree), Jesus is seeking Zacchaeus, this "non-person" shunned and hated by the crowd. The people have good reason for their hatred, since tax collectors are traitors, instruments of Rome's oppression, and this is a "chief" tax collector. (We may all be sinners, but this one is a really, really bad sinner.) He's also rich, so he has presumably extracted his wealth from his own people. A few chapters back, though, we learned how dear to the heart of God "the lost" are, in stories of lost sheep, lost coins, a lost son, all worth going after and looking for because they are so greatly valued by the seeker. Zacchaeus may be hated by the crowd, but he is loved and valued by Jesus, who has come to find him. Perhaps Jesus asks around to find out the name of that fellow up in the tree. It's "who Jesus is" to seek the lost, including us: it is his mission. This is also a story about joy, for Zacchaeus joyfully welcomes Jesus, in contrast to the rich ruler who walked away sad from his encounter with Jesus, because he couldn't let go of his possessions even to know joy and peace. The gospel is certainly "good news" for Zacchaeus: nothing less than salvation--healing and wholeness and restoration--has come this very day not just personally to him but to his entire household. It requires the grace of God for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, we recall, nothing less than a miracle. It's a good thing that "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), including miracles!

Hymn: I'm gonna live (3-4) 648

Invitation: *In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. This is the Lord's supper of love. This is the love that God has ordained for all, the love that unites us because it is the essence of God. We come by Jesus' invitation to this holy supper so full of mystery. We come to be one with each other, To taste the essence of heaven in a community of faith.*

Hymn: Come, ye disconsolate 195

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Blessing of the Elements:

*God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far. **Bless this bread, we pray.** May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world. **Bless this cup, we pray.** May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.*

Communion

Prayer following communion

*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. Amen***

Hymn: Jesus is risen (5-7) 254

Blessing: *May your grace send us from worship into your world. May we respond to that grace with gratitude.*

**May our steps lead us to paths of service,
our words to the healing of troubled hearts,
our touch to the embrace of compassion.**

May your grace send us from worship into your world.