



WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
December 15th, 2013



Preparing for worship:

- “Joy to the World”? How do you find joy in the midst of suffering and sorrow?
- “The goal for which we were created involves a path which has its thorns, but it is not a sad path. It is joy, even when it involves pain” Is this true of your life?

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

We journey through Advent by celebrating the promise 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 finish the healing work which he began at Bethlehem. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, the Mighty One whose name is holy. God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

Hymn: Jesus we are gathered

514

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: My soul give glory to God (1-3)

123

Scripture **Luke 1:47-55** "...my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favour on the lowliness of God's servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
the Mighty One whose name is holy.
God's mercy is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.
God has shown great strength;
and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
God has helped God's servant Israel,
in remembrance of God's mercy,
according to the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever."

Hymn: My soul give glory to God (4-5) 123

What brings you JOY?

"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete."

Hymn: Joy to the world (1-2) 153

Invitation: *When Jesus gathered his friends in farewell he offered them the gift of joy. This is our joy. Through this promise of joy we embody the joy of the Lord, which is our strength and share in a foretaste of God's reign. This is our joy. A coming reign where all are welcome, worthy, and invited. This is our joy. When people sit at table with Jesus lives are transformed and empowered, and joy is made complete. This is our joy. In hope and peace and joy come to the table spread for you. All people, including each of us, are invited to share in this sacred meal of joyful celebration, and be strengthened by the presence of God in this place. Joy to the world the Lord has come and joy is complete!*

Hymn: Joy to the world (1-2) 153

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)

Hymn: I come with Joy (1-3) 530

Communion

A Reflection after Holy Communion

God's infinite love for each of us is fully seen in Jesus Christ. The joy we are searching for is to be found in him. We see in the Gospel how the events at the beginning of Jesus' life are marked by joy. When the Archangel Gabriel tells the Virgin Mary that she is to be the mother of the Saviour, his first word is "Rejoice!" (Lk 1:28). When Jesus is born, the angel of the Lord says to the shepherds: "Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). When the Magi came in search of the child, "they were overjoyed at seeing the star" (Mt 2:10). The cause of all this joy is the closeness of God who became one of us. This is what Saint Paul means when he writes to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5). Our first reason for joy is the closeness of the Lord, who welcomes me and loves me. (Pope Benedict March 15, 2012)

Hymn: I come with Joy (4-5) 530

Please consider staying for breakfast and conversation regarding the Sanctuary renovations

Going deeper:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20120315_youth_en.html