



WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013



Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

**Gathering:** *May the love of the advent season with its message of God's love for the world 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. This is Good News 'to all God's beloved, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'* (Rom. 1:7)

Hymn: Of eternal love begotten (1-3) 163

Prayer of Confession:

*God of extravagant love, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore the needy, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*(Sharing the Peace of Christ)*

Hymn: Of eternal love begotten (4-5) 163

Scripture **Matthew 1:18-25** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Conversation:

- The gospel shows us dramatically 'the lengths of love' and we believe that God's love for the world was embodied in this birth.
- How does Joseph's acceptance of Jesus and Mary into his life model extravagant love here at St. David's today, even if the consequences of sharing such love are unpredictable?
- What echoes of 1 Corinthians strike you most in this passage?

Hymn: Lord, you were rich 134

**Invitation:** This is the table of God on which is set tokens of love and life and to which the Holy One calls all who want to share in that life.

So come – whether your faith is strong or weak, whether your hope shines brightly or is dimmed. **We come, ready to receive – for all are welcome at this feast of love.**

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: The Love of God comes close (verse 1 and 4) 530

### Communion

#### A Reflection after Holy Communion

Hymn: I'll love the Lord 573

**Please consider staying for breakfast and conversation regarding the Sanctuary renovations**

