

WELCOME TO...

**The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 12, 2014**



Gathering: *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you*

Hymn: All things I see

70

Prayers to Ponder as we gather: *Gracious and all loving God, you call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to your will. In the name of your beloved Son we pray. Amen.*

Hymn: One more step (1-3)

641

Isaiah 42:1-9 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name;

Hymn: One more step (4-5)

641

Exile! How could the Mighty Deliverer of Israel allow this to happen? “Had God abandoned them? Finding themselves removed from access to the temple and to the land, were they still God’s people? Was God still God? In exile they could only conclude that God had withdrawn favour and allowed the Babylonians to punish them for their sins and disobedience. Into this identity crisis Isaiah speaks a word. The prophet reminds the people who God is and how God works. He draws their attention from this particular, historical moment, to the larger purposes of God. As Isaiah speaks, it’s as though we see the camera lens zooming slowly out from a close-up shot to a wide-angle view, a cosmic view. By reminding Israel of who God is, how God works, and what God is doing by sending a servant, Isaiah expands the frame of reference, re-locating and purposing Israel’s particularity within God’s cosmic frame... The pattern of servanthood continues from Isaiah to Matthew. In Jesus, God again sends a servant who will bring justice, who God “anoints to bring good news to the poor . . . proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and declare the year of the Lord’s favour” (*Amy Oden*)

Hymn: Lord in this broken world 723

Invitation: *We come to the table - all of us welcome.*
We invite God to be part of us - all of us breaking bread together.
We prepare to remember Jesus - all of us touched by the Spirit of truth. We hope to be empowered by our feast - all of us with the glorious light of Christ shining in us.

Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ (1) 563
Prayer of Thanksgiving: (*concludes with...*) *Remembering your grace toward us, we take this bread and wine from among the gifts of your creation as signs of your saving help to us in Jesus Christ. We offer ourselves as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to proclaim the dying, rising, coming Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon your gift of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may truly be his body in the world for which he lived and died and still lives. By your Spirit, unite us both with the living Christ and*

with all your people everywhere. *We pray that together we may offer the compassion and forgiveness and healing and hope that have come to us through him. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Come, Holy Spirit, come! Bless our food, and bless our drink. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, and in each other. Amen*

Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ (2) 563

Communion

Prayer following communion: Generous God, with these hands you give us, we have held gifts for you. With these arms you give us, we stretch to gather in the lost and alone. With these eyes you give us, we see opportunities to share your good news. With these hearts you give us, we pray for strength and healing for others. You have given us what we need to be your disciples; we give to you all that we are to praise your name. Use these gifts and your people to spread the saving love of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ (3) 563