

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 19, 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: Jesus calls us (1-3)

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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: Jesus calls us (4-5)

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Scripture: John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him,

"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Focus Questions

1. Do you think most Christians are seeking Jesus, or something else?
2. Where, in your experience, does Jesus "live"?
3. What losses are we willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel?
4. What is your own story of "meeting Jesus"?

Hymn: Behold the Lamb of God 525

Testimony. Witness. Evangelism. Many of us in mainline churches admit to a measure of discomfort with such words. And yet we've entered the season of the Epiphany, which is all about manifestation and revelation, and the powerful, authentic experience of revelation of God's love and God's deeds naturally leads us to want to share it with others. Isn't that sharing what evangelism, witness, and testimony are all about? Our reading from the Gospel of John describes revelation, and testimony

Invitation: *When Jesus poured the wine, and the bread was broken;
when everyone could eat -*

the outcast and the beloved

the arrogant and the gracious

the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by -

the table became a foretaste of love made real

and of a world made whole

Hymn: Behold the Lamb of God 525

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 prayer)

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we

feast at the heavenly banquet. *Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honour and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. (Our Father...)*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him 528

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: For the bread which you have broken 549