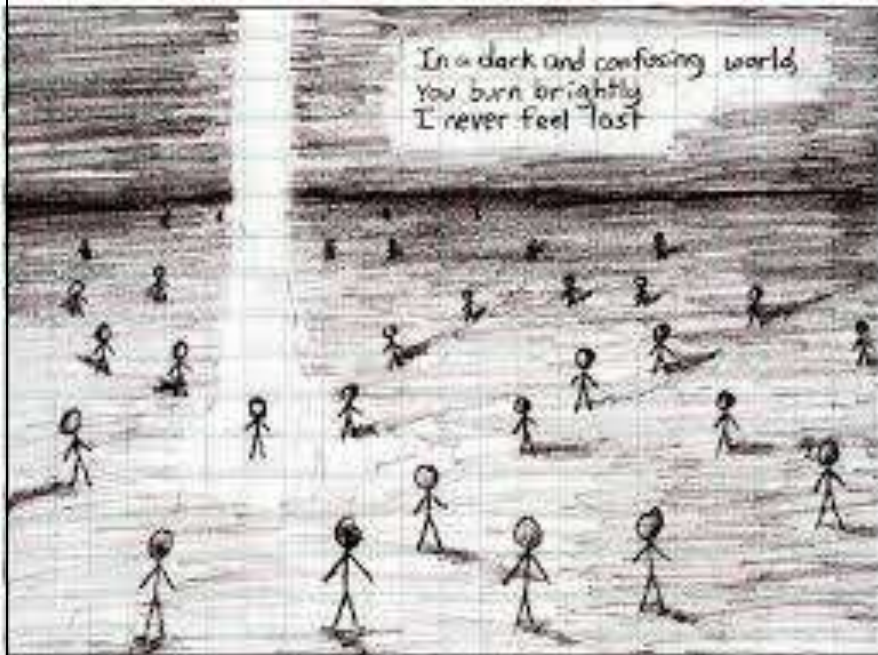


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
*Saint David*

January 26, 2014



## WALKING IN THE LIGHT

**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:** Christ whose glory (1) 177

**Prayers to begin worship:** *O God, when the world grows dark and the advance of evil appears unstoppable, may we never lose our vision of Emmanuel's light. When society seems uncaring and indifference predominates, may we never forget the warmth of Emmanuel's love. When people cry out for justice but self-interest prevails, may we never lose the fire of Emmanuel's anger. When we know we must speak out but our tongue seems to shrivel, may we draw boldness from the truth of Emmanuel's proclamations. When those we must confront are powerful and our hearts grow fearful, may we take strength from the courage of Emmanuel's actions. O God, when the moment comes and we must make our stand, may it always be at Emmanuel's side.*

**Hymn:** Christ whose glory (2) 177

**Quiet reflection:** In the quietness of this place, surrounded by the all-pervading presence of God, our hearts whisper: Keep fresh before us the moments of our high resolve, that in fair weather or in foul, in good times or in tempests, in the days when the darkness and the foe are nameless or familiar, we may not forget that to which our lives are committed. Keep fresh before us the moments of our high resolve. *Amen. (Adapted from Meditations of the Heart, Howard Thurman)*

**Hymn:** Christ whose glory (3) 177

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4** But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Hymn:** The people that in darkness (1-3) 171

It's a sign of a time of having gotten used to 'walking around in the dark.' But the promise is that the day will come --- perhaps signs of that wondrous day have already arrived as we hear the voice of Jesus calling us to step into the light of the new day that God has in store for all of us.

- How have you grown accustomed to 'walking around in the dark?'
- What experiences do you have of light shining in your darkness?
- How do we experience light as we heed the call to follow Jesus?

**Hymn:** The people that in darkness (4-5) 171

**Invitation:** *This is the table of God on which is set tokens of love and hope 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.  
Come, ready to receive –  
for all are welcome  
at this feast of love.*

**Hymn:** First of the week (1) 437

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.*

*Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother (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:** Arise your light is come (1-2) 712

### Communion

**Prayer following communion:** God of joy, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills. Until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace. In Christ's spirit, Amen

**Hymn:** Arise your light is come (3-4) 712

*The bread we share makes us one. The cup we pour makes us one. Even as our dearest sisters and brothers come and go from us, we are one.*

**Even as we scatter from this place  
to so many diverse pursuits  
throughout this city, this Province, this world,  
we are one.**

*With gratitude we share the Table.*

**With gratitude we depart.**

*With gratitude we release one another,  
trusting in the One*

**Who makes us one.**

*Go in peace.*