

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

February 02, 2014



LIVING 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: Blest are they (1-3)

624

Prayer to begin worship: **God of Blazing light, through the power of the cross you shattered our darkness, scattering the fears that bind us and setting us free to live as your children. Give us courage and conviction that we may joyfully turn and follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light that shines through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Hymn: Blest are they (4-5)

624

Prayer: *Lord you are with us in your Word and your Sacrament help us to recognise and appreciate your presence more. Hear us Lord. Lord you are present with us as we gather in your name. May we witness to your presence by loving and respecting each other as you have taught us. Hear us Lord. Lord your presence is seen in the many faces of your people. In their daily lives, their work and pleasure, in their joys and sorrows, in their successes and failures, in their dyings and risings, you are with them. Help us to see your many faces. Forgive us when we fail to see you in our neighbour. Hear us Lord. Lord you identified yourself with the poor, the lonely, the condemned, the neglected, the persecuted and all those less fortunate than ourselves. Open our eyes to see you in the face of the other and enable us to serve you as we serve others in your name. Hear us Lord.*

Scripture: **Matthew 5:1-12** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'

sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Hymn: What does the Lord require of you 709

Viewing the Beatitudes through the lens of the Cross, we are invited to seek and find the action of God in the most unexpected people: the poor, the mourners, the persecuted, the peacemakers. Their lives now, in the present, hold the blessing and transforming power of God, as they live and struggle for justice, peace, and wholeness in their world. All of the readings today lead us on a labyrinthian journey toward a vision with God not only at its center, but God at every turn, upsetting our expectations and challenging us to take another step deeper into the mystery of divine presence dwelling in our world. God is calling us to follow Christ, the Beloved, into the world to engage in a lifetime of faithful, creative, courageous, community-building love. (*Susan Blain*)

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the challenges the Beatitudes bring up in your life?
2. What are some of the blocks in your life that keep you from fully experiencing the blessedness of the Beatitudes?

Invitation: *Come, you welcomed and blessed come, all who hunger and thirst. Jesus calls us to dine as friends, come, God's feast of welcome awaits us.*

Hymn: The son of God proclaim (1-3) 558

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. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

(Continue in prayer) By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and what we do here that these your gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may bring life, hope, and love to all your world. 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: The son of God proclaim (4-5) 558

Communion

Closing Reflection The Beatitudes invite us to be open to the presence of God within us. Then our Christian attitudes of social justice, peace, and mercy can flow over into daily acts of compassionate love and service. When we live inspired by the Beatitudes, we are more open to the truth and beauty and possibilities of our faith.

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: Now to Christ who loved us 554