

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
***Saint David***

February 09, 2014

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## BEING 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:** Let there be light (1-3)

727

Prayer to begin worship: *Holy God, we come before You acknowledging our brokenness. We have been broken by the ways of the world. Greed and selfishness of others have hurt us; our own desires for wealth and success have harmed others. Forgive us for not looking to Your ways, to seeing that our greatest need is to love You and to love our neighbours as ourselves. May we feel Your love and care, and Your forgiveness, as we are challenged to forgive and love one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Hymn:** Let there be light (4-5)

727

Prayer: *God of compassion and justice, the worship you choose for us is to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry, to shelter the homeless poor. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly. So in praise and wonder, we come to worship you not just with our words but with our hearts and our lives. Glory and honour be to you, O God, Creator of a new heaven and a new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (Rev. Iona MacLean, Pictou)

Scripture: **Isaiah 58: 1-9a** Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer...

### IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING THE LIGHT

To truly "seek the LORD" is to seek justice and righteousness for the poor and oppressed. They are willing to entrust their rituals and prayers to God, but not extend their faith commitment to the social and economic spheres of their lives. Because of their social and economic sins they remain in darkness. To cease from oppressing others is not enough. To be a people of justice and righteousness means to be actively engaged in social and economic reform. Israel is to be an agent of liberation, generosity, and compassion for the poor and oppressed (58:6-7). Isaiah urges Israel, "pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted"(58:10). The phrase "pour yourself," literally means to "pour out your soul"... The promise in 58:10 comes in the form of an "If, then" clause: **If** you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, **then** your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. (Bo Lim)

**Invitation:** *Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Here is the table of the Lord, we are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal.*

**Hymn:** Be present at our table Lord **456**  
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. Holy and*

*Loving God, we give thanks that we, who have walked in darkness, are surrounded by your great light. We are thankful for the incarnate life of Jesus of Nazareth who offered love and justice in his time. We are grateful for your surprising Spirit living within us and blowing among us. We offer gratitude for your church, the community of those who have heard your call and now seek to be Christ's body, offering love and justice in our time. With all the host of heaven we sing the song of salvation. 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

**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

**Benediction:** Go out into the world and take up the work of Jesus:  
**find the lost, heal the broken,  
feed the hungry, release the prisoner,  
rebuild the nations,  
bring peace among the people.**  
Make music in the heart.  
No matter how crazy that seems.

**Hymn:** Lord whose love

**722**