

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

February 16, 2014



SHINING THE LIGHT ON LAW AND GOSPEL

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: Lord, as I awake, I turn toward you

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Prayer to begin worship: *Loving God, you call us into community, teach us your ways, and bless us with abundant life. Yet we turn aside to follow other paths: we take the easy way out, listening to the world's call rather than your call to commitment; we quarrel with one another, letting differences divide us; we cherish our resentments, shutting off our hearts from forgiveness and reconciliation; we cling to petty jealousies, feeling we deserve more than we have. Forgive us when we wander from your love. Draw us into community with each other, and feed us with the milk of your grace, that we may grow in faithfulness and work together in peace. Amen.*

Hymn: Lamp of our feet (1-3) 511

Scripture: **Matthew 5: 21-37** [Jesus said:] "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

Commentary “There is a need in this first-century church (and our own) to look at relationships and how individuals treat each other. There is a value to life and how we value the lives of others. This perhaps is the heart of the matter in the text: right relationship. The text even encourages those who are not treated well to reach out and foster places of reconciliation.... The text challenges us to see the world in a new way. What is our view of humanity? Do we have a vision for justice that will bring about racial healing and equality? Do we have a vision for reconciliation that will provide a hope and a future for those who are marginalized and ostracized by society? The text takes us to hard places which involve looking at our hearts and creating newness within.”

Hymn: Lamp of our feet (4-5) 511

Intercessions:

God, in whose eyes all life is precious, help us to value the worth of every individual, whom you have created in your image. (silence)

We pray for victims of violence or hatred, especially people who have suffered innocently. May they find the healing of body, mind or spirit which they need. (silence)

We ask that the causes of division and hatred may be brought down.

Where there is prejudice because of colour, language, religion or culture, help us to see things through the eyes of others, and act towards them as we would like to be treated ourselves. (silence)

We also pray for people who have been the cause of hurts to others.

Enable them not only to admit their mistakes, but also to use their time and energy for the benefit of others and the welfare of society. (silence)

We pray for family relationships in our society. Thank you for those who are our own families, or who have been like family to us. Bless them with the love in return which they themselves have shown. (silence)

We ask for your healing and reconciling love in family disputes or misunderstandings. We especially pray for children and young people caught up in problems not of their making, and for the anxiety and tensions this may cause. Give them good friends and wise counselors, and support from their peer group and schools. (silence)

Loving God, as we have promised you our devoted service in words and prayer, give us the strength of your Holy Spirit to enable us to keep our promises, for you are the source of our lives and our strength. (silence)

~ written by Rev Dr David Graham

Invitation: *Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole. Come, old and young, there is room for all.*

We are invited to come together around this table as those who belong to the household of Christ, brothers and sisters who in our baptized lives live out the death and resurrection of Jesus. *The family of the reborn and the reconciled, who inhabit a universe of grace.*

Hymn: Arise your light is come (1-2) 712

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 law and gospel that guide us and offer us your light. We are grateful that law and gospel guide us to your grace. We are thankful for this community that shares your light with the world. 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) *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 (3-4) 712

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Benediction: God has placed before you life and death, blessings and curses. Therefore choose life, follow God's way. Go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" "no". **In all the paths we walk may God hold us steady and close. May Christ Jesus bless us and every place we enter.** And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life. **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.**