

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

February 23, 2014



Martin Luther King emphasizes that "hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe. . . . The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil. . . . and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love."

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: The love of God comes close (1-3) 474

Prayer to begin worship: *Loving God, Lord of the Church, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: we have not loved you with all our heart or served you with all our strength; we have been blind to the vision of a renewed world and deaf to your call to costly discipleship; we have been indifferent to the suffering of others and unwilling to forgive one another.*

In your mercy, Lord, pardon and restore us, that together in the ministry of Christ we may serve you with joy all the days of our life. Amen.

Hymn: The love of God comes close (4-5) 751

Scripture: **Matthew 5:38-48 [Jesus said:]** "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Hymn: Forgive our sins as we forgive (1-2) 751

Reflection by Mark Suriano : “Jesus is not openly critical of the prescriptions of the Law or its application (it is in Matthew's Gospel after all that Jesus claims to have come to fulfill the Law), but he is calling for a deeper and more radical way of following. The "you have heard it said /but I say to you" device begs the listeners to pay attention as Jesus deepens both the meaning of the Law and the obligation of the hearers. For example, "an eye for an eye" and "love your neighbors and hate your enemies" may be more appealing to our sensibilities and our need for a swift, concise, sense of justice. Jesus' admonitions are equally clear but infinitely more difficult to follow, since the obligation lies not in retribution against another but in requiring more from the self and from the redeemed community he is gathering.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

for our families, friends and neighbours, and for those who are alone. *For this community, our country, and the world; for all who work for justice, freedom and peace. For the just and proper use of your creation; for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression. For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; for those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

for all who proclaim the gospel, and for all seek the truth. *For the Presbyterian Church in Canada, for David, moderator of General Assembly, Jean moderator of Presbytery ... for elders and members of congregational committees, and for all who hold office in this congregation; for all who serve God in the church. For our own needs, and for others for whom you have called us to pray. [Silence] Hear us, Lord for your mercy is great.* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of life.

[Silence:] *We exalt you, O God; and praise your name for ever and ever. We give thanks for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for the promise of your eternal kingdom. [Silence] In Christ you have called us to eternal glory; to you be praise for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hymn: Forgive our sins as we forgive (3-4) 751

Invitation: *Here at this Table of love, where we share the broken bread and pass the cup of grace which has been blessed by your Spirit, we learn how to be your people. We learn how to work for justice, and to share from our abundance; we will not bear a grudge, or seek revenge when we are hurt; we will not tell lies about others, but love them as deeply as we love ourselves.*

Hymn: Live in Charity 501

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 teachings of Jesus which open a new way for us to be in relationship with others – neighbours and friends and enemies alike. We are grateful for the new commandment which points us to the love of Jesus Christ. We are thankful for this community that shares your love and 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...)*

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us 554

Benediction: Go now, knowing that you are God's holy temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you. Therefore, we will love our enemies, pray for those who persecute you give generously to all who need your help, and be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect, and may God give you all things in Christ; May Christ Jesus be the foundation of all you are and do; And may the Spirit fill you with delight in all God's ways.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.