

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

March 09, 2014



TEMPTATION

These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard...

We follow our faithful Lord.

It is God who sustains, not the temptations of this world...

We follow our faithful Lord.

In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm...

We follow our faithful Lord.

Come, let us worship the One whom we serve...

We follow our faithful Lord.

Hymn: Lord, as I awake, I turn toward you

Prayer to begin worship: *Creator God, by whose word we are fed, in whose name is safety, in whose intent for our world is our hope, we offer you our songs and prayers of praise. We rejoice in your way with us. You invite us to look into a mirror of love. In it you show us our value even as we see our need to change. You call us to the greater maturity and deeper love we desire. Deep is our reverence for your way with us.*

We also come before you bringing our lives with their burden, and cares, hopes and ambitions. We bring our grudges. We confess that it is on these we are focused, distracted from our deeper calling and best selves. In these moments of silence hear us as we speak to you of the life that is ours, of the things that occupy us, of the places where we need you so deeply, of the things of which we are ashamed.... (silence) *Hold them in your heart Lord so we can be freed from them during this time of worship to enjoy you and each other. When we pick up the threads of our lives again, may we do so as changed people, strengthened and renewed, better able to follow you, our Lord and saviour in whose presence we rejoice and in whose name we pray. Amen.*

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

Scripture: **Matthew 4:1-11** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Reflection (by David Lose) “There is little question that the source Matthew and Luke depend upon has in mind the story of Israel's wandering in the wilderness. Jesus is in the wilderness for forty days, just as the Israelites were for forty years. When tested, Jesus replies with Scriptural affirmations taken from Old Testament passages referencing the time in the wilderness. In this sense, Jesus repeats the trials set before Israel as he is about to commence his public ministry. Just as Israel emerged from their wanderings chastened, purified, and ready to inherit God's blessings and promises, so also Jesus emerges from his trials confirmed in his identity and purified and strengthened for his awaiting mission.

Where Israel wandered as punishment for mistrust, however, Jesus fasts and is tempted in order to prove his trust in God and thereby his trustworthiness for the journey ahead. In this way, this scene not only links Jesus to the past of his ancestors, it marks him as superior to them and ready to inaugurate a new era in the ongoing history of God and the people of God.”

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: I hunger and I thirst (1-3) 198

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 living God, we gather around this Table as your people. We come with our hands open and our hearts full. May this simple and sacred meal of living bread and the cup of salvation remind us of your presence, power, and peace in our lives and in this world. In this season of Lent, we are humbled by our humanity; our humanity that is full of brokenness, rejection, suffering, and greed. And still, through this bread, this cup, our connections to one another, and our faith in you, we are renewed and made whole again and again. God of light; God of love; God of all creation, we are your people seeking to nurture communities of compassion and care, and we recommit to proclaiming your message of hope, transformation, and justice in all that we do. In Christ's name Amen.*

Hymn: I hunger and I thirst (4-5) 198

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Benediction: