

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

May 11, 2014



FINDING THE FOUNDATION

Gathering: *We are God's church: We come together to worship.*

God has given us the Word: We come together to learn.

God has filled us with power: We go out to bring others.

God has called us into family: We come together to share our lives.

God has put the word on our lips: We go out to tell the world.

God has given us the Spirit: We come together to celebrate.

God has blessed us with bread and wine: We go out to share this goodness with others.

God has freed us from our past: We come together to move forwards.

God has planned for us a glorious future: We go out to live our lives for Jesus.

We are God's church: We come together to worship.

Hymn: How firm a foundation (vs. 1-2)

685

Confession: *Almighty God, no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid. That foundation is Jesus Christ.*

We admit that we have not been able to finish building on this foundation in such a way that we may become the dwelling place of God. We have sometimes even been the cause of its ruin.

Even if our work should be lost, save us, God and give us a fresh chance to work for unity.

Create in us an ardent longing for the unity of your church and enable us to work towards it. Amen.

~ from resources by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Hymn: How firm a foundation (vs. 3-4)

685

Assurance of Pardon: *This is the good news we have declare: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ.*

This is the word we have heard: our faithful God forgives our sins and raises us to new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: How firm a foundation (vs. 5)

685

Scripture: **Acts 2:42-47** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Commentary (by Matt Skinner in "Working Preacher")

"This passage presents a summary filled with generalizations, yet several details prove instructive. The community of faith in Jerusalem lives a multifaceted witness, one not restricted to a single place or mode. This witness manifests itself in houses and in the Jerusalem temple. It benefits its members and earns the admiration of outsiders. The community exists not for its own sake, but to care for its most vulnerable members and to be a means by which God extends salvation to others (v. 47)."

The passage is fairly easy to understand in terms of the picture it describes. Its challenge comes in discerning how to apply it. Is the life of this community to be taken as a model for Christian life today? If so, it would be hard to deny that most Christians are missing the mark on some key points. If it is not to be so taken, then what shall we do with the passage?

Hymn: Servants of the Saviour

520

Invitation:

Jesus invites us into an unique community founded on teaching, praying, breaking bread and coming together in a unique relationship with God and one another called koinonia – a community created and founded on Jesus Christ who meets us as we sit at table together. **At this table we come together as the guests of Jesus.**

Hymn: Living God (vs.2)

666

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.*** (Continue in thanksgiving)

O God, giver of all that is good,

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May we know you in the teaching, praying, breaking of bread and especially in the communion we share with one another. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other.

Hymn: Thou who at thy first eucharist (vs.1)

559

Communion

Prayer after Communion *Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.*

Hymn: Thou who at thy first eucharist (vs.3)

559

