

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

September 28, 2014



Gathering: *We come to hear the stories of other people in another world long ago. We come to hear the stories that are also about us today in this place. God, give us ears to listen, eyes to see, hearts to accept.*

Hymn: I come with Joy (vs. 1-2)

530

A Prayer to prepare us: *Too often we have gone our own ways and done our will rather than God's. Let us ask forgiveness from the Lord. Lord Jesus, your Yes was a firm Yes to the will of the Father,*

even when it led you to suffering and the cross. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** *Jesus Christ, your word was reliable, for you lived as you believed: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, we owe forgiveness and life to your Yes to the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, forgive us our hesitations and cowardice in living up to the gospel. Help us to serve you with generous love and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. from **Liturgy Alive, Models of Celebration**

Hymn: I come with Joy (vs. 3)

530

Scripture: Matthew 21: 28-32a

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Once again, the setting of the parable is the vineyard – the place where the landowner offered free, unmerited grace in the parable last week (11 am service) if you remember. (Matt. 20:1-16) Now the hearer is challenged with the implications of this grace. Such grace leads (or can lead) to changed minds and hearts – repentance. This change is seen in the first son, who at first refuses the invitation and call to work in the vineyard, but later experiences a change of heart and goes to work. He experiences a change of mind that leads to a change of life. In contrast is the second son, who initially says, "Yes," to his father's invitation but then fails to respond.

- *What is the relationship between faith, repentance, and response? With which son do you relate? Why?*
- *Imagine a conversation between the two sons at the end of the day. What would it be like?*
- *Imagine a conversation between the mother and father of these two sons. What would it be like?*

Hymn: Christ, you call us all to service **585**
Prayer: *This world I live in, this town I live in, this street I live in this house I live in, may each be the focus of my prayer. Those I live with, those I rub shoulders with, those I work with, those I don't get on with, may each be the focus of my prayer. Those who laugh, those who cry, those who hurt, those who hide, may each be the focus of my prayer. God, You are a God of compassion and love. Time after time we have experienced your care and provision. Time after time You've answered our prayers and met our needs - often in ways we could never have dreamed possible. We praise You for Your faithful love toward us. Because we have known Your love, we come to You with confidence, offering our prayers for the world that You love. We see so much pain and suffering. so much violence and poverty and despair. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs around us. But we continue to bring our prayers to You in faith, because we know that nothing is impossible for You. You are the God who rained down bread from heaven, and made water flow from a rock in the desert; the God who resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead, and who brings new life and hope to all who believe. For You, all things are possible. Hear our prayers. We pray for the people of the world many fleeing in fear - without food, without water, without shelter, without hope. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.** We pray for the regions of our world caught up in violence and war: for Iran and Iraq, for Congo, for Israel and Palestine, for Syria, and the Ukraine. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.** We pray for those affected by economic concerns, for the many who remain unemployed, for those who have lost their homes or their businesses, for those whose debts are mounting, and who don't know where to turn. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.** We pray for those who live with serious illness, those with chronic pain, those without access to proper medical care, those for whom treatment is no longer an option. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.** Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live - the way of deep humility and obedience. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind, balancing our needs with the needs of those around us. Give us courage to follow faithfully, and with integrity - with actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships - so that our lives will bring glory and honour to You, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.*

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: Eat this bread **527**

Communion

Prayer after Communion *Thanks be to you, uniting God, for your love and mercy and forgiveness in Christ. 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: May the Lord bless you **553**

The congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David's is called to meet immediately following the morning service on October 5 to consider approval of the financial matters relating to the renovation of the Sanctuary space and related projects. This meeting should be very brief and yet is very important.