

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

October 12, 2014



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love.

We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. *Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression,*

Your love overwhelming our apathy.

Hymn: For all your goodness, God 804

Prayer of Confession: *Generous God, you fill the earth to overflowing with food for all and to spare; we bless you for your generous providing, food to sustain us all our days. **Forgive us, that in our selfishness and greed we have thought so often only of our own table, and not of our neighbour's, and have hoarded to ourselves that which you intended for everyone.** Redeemer God, you visit the earth in Jesus and show us how to live a life of God-worship; we bless you for your redeeming love, trusting us to follow you in thankfulness, in sharing, and in hospitality. **Forgive us, that in our stuttering and stumbling we make excuses, and limp along behind you, too often, unwilling to hold our neighbour's hand.***

Hymn: *Now thank we all our God* (vs. 1-2) 457

*Sustainer God, in the power of the Spirit you show us a vision of how things can be if only we would let you loose to re-order the world as you made it to be. **Forgive us, that in our cowardice and confusion we have turned inward and failed to see how we can work with you to make all things new.** God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, fill us with life anew; inspire us to lives of gratitude, and of hard, determined action, so that, in our own homes and in the world for which Jesus was content to die, there may be enough food for each, and life abundant for all; so that when He comes again, in His glory, we will be welcomed into His joy as those who, in feeding the hungry, fed Him. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Hymn: *What gift can we bring* (vs. 1) 798

Listening to the Word: **Deuteronomy 8:7-18** For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Hymn: *What gift can we bring* (vs. 2-3)

798

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Hymn: *What gift can we bring* (vs. 4)

798

The witnesses tell of your boundless generosity, and their telling is compelling to us: You give your word to call the worlds into being; You give your sovereign rule to emancipate the slaves and the oppressed; You give your commanding fidelity to form your own people; You give your life for the life of the world... broken bread that feeds, poured out wine and binds and heals. You give...we receive...and are thankful.

We begin this day in gratitude, thanks that is a match for your self-giving, gratitude in gifts offered, gratitude in tales told, gratitude in lives lived.

Gratitude willed, but no so readily lived, held back by old wounds turned to powerful resentment, slowed by early fears become vague anxiety, restrained by self-sufficiency in a can-do arrogance, blocked by amnesia unable to recall gifts any longer. Do this yet. Create innocent spaces for us this day for the gratitude we intend. In thankfulness, we will give, we will tell, we will live, your gift through us to gift the world. Amen.

~ written by Walter Brueggemann,

Hymn: Now thank we all our God (vs. 3)

457

Invitation Come to this table not because you must, but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because He loved you and gave Himself for you. Come and meet the Risen Christ, for we are His Body. **This is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.** So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. **Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.** *The Sacrament of Bread and Wine – where God comes to meet us in the ordinary things of the earth that God has made holy – wheat and grapes, food and drink for our souls and for our bodies, grown in the soil, watered by the rain, ripened by the sun, fashioned by human hands so that the divine purpose may once again be fulfilled.*

Communion Hymn: Be present at our table Lord

456

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: Sent forth by your blessing (verse 2)

775

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds, and through you, to bring healing to Earth, in Jesus' name. Amen.

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.