

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**

October 19, 2014

---



**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The heavens are telling the glory of God

**May our worship reflect God's glory.**

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God. **We seek communion with God and one another. Let us worship!**

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 1-2)

123

**Confession:** *If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need: forgive us, Lord. If we conceal your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centredness: forgive us, Lord. If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness: forgive us, Lord. If we conceal your justice through our failure to empower those who are powerless: forgive us, Lord. If we conceal your mercy*

*because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes: forgive us, Lord. If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance: forgive us, Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that we reveal your glory in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in your name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 3-4)

123

Exodus 33:11-23 **11** Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent. Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 5)

123

Comment from Kate Huey; "we read about "the tent," where Yahweh "used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a

friend" (33:11). Yes, there is a pillar of cloud, and yes, the people have sense enough to "rise and stand" as they watch Moses make his way to these remarkable encounters. But the text says that God speaks to Moses "as one speaks to a friend," and is willing to do this quite often. And while God tells Moses that he cannot see God's glory and live (for God is way, way too much for a mere mortal to deal with), God also uses surprisingly anthropomorphic terms to engage Moses, covering him with God's "hand," and letting Moses see God's "back" as God's glory passes by, presumably on the rocky path along the mountainside, after God hides Moses safely in a little cleft in the rock. God seems marvelously accessible and yet, at the same time, utterly unfathomable. Gene Tucker notes the impossibility of putting into words the human "experience of the encounter with the One who is both radically other and immediately present." "Radically other and immediately present": can you feel the tension?"

**Focus Questions** 1. Where and how do you experience God's presence? 2. How can God be both "a good friend," and far beyond our imagining? 3. Where might you be missing God (the glory of God!) in your own personal life, in the life of your church, and in the life of the world? 4. What do you think your "presence" brings to others?

Hymn: God of grace and God of Glory (vs. 1-2) **490**

**Prayers of the People:** *O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.*

**Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection. O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.** *Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.*

~ written by Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Hymn: God of grace and God of Glory (vs. 3-4) **490**

Invitation: *No one can earn a place at this meal. Come of your own choice. You need only desire a deeper relationship with the risen Christ. Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your deliberations and your doubts. **We come to be made whole.***

Hymn: God of grace and God of Glory (vs. 5) **490**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

*May God be with you **And also with you!** Lift your hearts **We lift them up to God!** Let us give thanks to God most high. **It is right to give God thanks and praise!** Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, each and all created in your image. **We thank you for your covenants. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honour each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer thanks that when we ignored your embrace, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you.** Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as church. Thank you for continuing to bring us together that we may celebrate you.*

Hymn: Here is bread **546**

### **Communion**

**Prayer after Communion** *Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. **Grow in us that we may nourish others.** Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

Hymn: May the Lord bless you **553**