

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
November 09, 2014



Prayer of Approach and Gathering

*We arise today with the power of God to guide us,
the might of God to uphold us, the wisdom of God to teach us,
the eye of God to watch over us, the ear of God to hear us,
the word of God to give us speech, the hand of God to protect us,
the way of God to direct us, the shield of God to shelter us,
and the host of God to defend us. Be with us, O God, as we offer to you
our remembering. (Adopted from A War Primer: F.B. MacNutt)*

Hymn: O God of Bethel (1-3)

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Act of Remembrance *As we remember in silence before God those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, let us commend their souls anew to God's eternal mercy and compassion, and let us pray that God would grant us grace to serve faithfully until our life's end, to the honour and glory of God's Holy Name.* **Silence.**

Prayer : Loving and compassionate God, we pray for all who have laboured for liberty, freedom and justice; for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; for those who in life and death have preserved our living. Grant that they may rest in your peace, and that we, through our actions, may be found worthy to inherit the eternal treasures of your kingdom.

Amen.

Christ is our peace, he has reconciled us to God in one body by the Cross. We meet in his name and we share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you. Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn: O God of Bethel (4-5)

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Listening to the scriptures from Joshua 24

‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

Commentary: The war is over... so, now what? When the fighting subsides, what are God's people to do?
Choosing to covenant with the LORD.

1. (14) The challenge: serve God exclusively. What gods are vying for our attention?
2. (15) Choose God or choose your alternative.
3. (16-18) The nation gives a great response; they also will serve the LORD. How might Canada hear this passage?
4. What principles from this chapter can be applied to us today? What do we need to do in order to serve God acceptably?

Hymn: Lord, I want to be a Christian

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Prayer of Repentance *Even in the small schemes of our lives there are times when we come upon the big mess which we may or may not have caused.*

**The challenges given,
the first shots fired,
volleys of words thrown like grenades,
the bodies prone,
the revenge promised ...**

*war even on the tiniest scale wreaks havoc
and rejects consolation through the years.
The fog of war never completely lifts
but the casualties are completely clear.*

**Trust and innocence blown to smithereens,
hope sidelined in the trenches
with bitterness like a rat
gnawing on grudges.
Jesus, make it stop.**

*Give us imagination to see relationships
restored forgiveness offered good will
renewed; give us vision to see this battlefield
transformed.*



**We long for a field of winter
wheat green after the fiercest season,
friends embracing enemies,
an armistice to the cold war –
a white flag in the spring of peace.** ~ written by Carol Penner

Invitation: *In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.*
This is the Lord's supper of love. This is the love that God has ordained for all, the love that unites us because it is the essence of God. We come by Jesus' invitation to this holy supper so full of mystery. We come to be one with each other, To taste the essence of heaven in a community of faith.

Hymn: Be still my soul (1-2)

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Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Blessing of the Elements:

God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far. Bless this bread, we pray. May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world. Bless this cup, we pray. May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.

Prayer after Communion *Thanks be to you, gracious 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: Be still my soul (3-4)

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Joshua said to all the people, "See, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God." (Joshua 24:27)
God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the State and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always. **Amen**