

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
November 16, 2014



Call to Worship (based on Psalm 123)

*Great and Glorious God, we gather to worship you. We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty. **Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!** Generous and Merciful God, we come to worship you. We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion. **Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!** Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you. We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness. **Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised! We lift our eyes, seeking to worship and praise our God. Amen.***

Hymn: God, whose giving knows no ending (1-2) **663**

Prayer of Confession *We have failed to love you with all our heart and to be good stewards of your creation: Lord, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy. *We have failed to take up the cross of discipleship and to be good stewards of your gospel: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** We have failed to be faithful members of your church and to be good stewards of your spiritual gifts: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.***

Declaration of Forgiveness *God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

Hymn: God, whose giving knows no ending (3) **663**

The Reading: "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' "Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I

would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Commentary: As Jesus leaves his parting instructions to his disciples, Charles Cousar says, he uses these stories to "direct the hearers' attention to the issues at hand, to faithfulness, preparedness, and risk." In this story, we hear about a servant who buried the money he had been given, instead of circulating it in the world and multiplying its value and its effect. Have we buried the gospel, keeping it safely hidden and taking it out mostly on Sunday mornings? Or have we opened our lives up to the extravagant transformation of the gospel?

1. How does our image of God affect the way we live?
2. Do you think of risk-taking as a virtue?

Hymn: My soul gives glory (1-3) 123

Prayer of Intercession *We want to have glimpses of the future so that we might know that we are secure. We want to have the security to know that tomorrow will be alright. We want to have life all buttoned down and figured out so there will be no surprises. We want you to rid us of all anxiety and worry and fear. We want to know that when the great call comes for us we will be safe. We want all darkness and all uncertainty removed from our lives. Become alive for us again in these quiet moments. (silence) We pray that in this teachable moment you would again open to us your powerful and grace-filled presence. Lead our spirits to find the courage to say, "All will be well because we are yours." Lead our spirits to find the ability to live one moment and one day at a time. Lead our spirits to serenity and a peace which the world cannot give. Lead our spirits to know that with your power we can cope with whatever surprises life presents to us. Lead our spirits to know that we are destined "not for wrath" but for your redeeming. And lead our spirits to know that "whether we wake or sleep," living or dying, we are yours into the ages of all ages. Amen.*

~ Richard J Einerson,

Hymn: My soul gives glory (4-5) 123

Invitation: *In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship the poor, marginalized and rejected of this world. In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now. In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship Jesus, our incarnated, broken and risen Lord. Amen!*

Hymn: Christians lift your hearts

536

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: *Wine is for sorrow and for joy, for suffering and for celebration, for forgiveness and for New Relationship. We drink until Christ returns. Amen!*

And so we pray: Send us out to wait and to work for the Kingdom. Make us people of hope, fanning the flames of redemption and resurrection in the world. Amen! ~ posted on the Third Space website

Hymn: Go now in Peace

620

