

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**  
December 14, 2014



*The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait with peace-filled hearts,  
Prepare the way for the Lord - A just and peaceful path!*

Hymn: Teach me God to wonder (1-2)

704

**Opening Prayer:** *O Lord, be gracious to us. Look upon your people with mercy. Forgive our sin. Bring us back again, as you have done before.*  
**Speak your word to us - a word of peace to those who follow faithfully. For we know, without doubt, that Your salvation is near; your glory fills this place. Let your unfailing love and truth come together among us; let your righteousness and peace surround us. Pour out your goodness upon us, that we may worship and serve you all our days. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness** *God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.*  
**God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God.**

Hymn: Teach me God to wonder (3-4) 704

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.*

**What the Psalmist is saying:**

- The community thanks God for past deliverance (vv. 1-3)
- The community calls for renewed deliverance (vv. 4-7)
- The community prays for God's word to be revealed (vv. 8-9)
- The community receives the promise of God's deliverance (vv. 10-13)

There are two main theological themes woven into the psalm. On the one hand, there is the theme of our ongoing need for God's

intervention (vv. 4-8). We do not receive God just once--whether at baptism or at some conversion experience--we receive God again and again. We receive blessing, forgiveness, guidance, instruction, and Son--and we receive all of these throughout our lives. The purpose of remembering what God has done in the past--of knowing both God's actions of "law" and of "gospel"--is to know what God can and will do again.

On the other hand, the psalm also develops the theme of God's restoring acts--"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice with you?" (v. 6; or, perhaps, the verse should be translated, "so that your people may rejoice in you.") The psalm bears witness to the faith that God has acted in the past (vv. 1-3), but even more, it bears witness to the confession that God is present now and able to act now. It promises that the one who established a covenant with Israel will remain faithful in the future and will continue to deliver Israel (vv. 10-13). (Rolf Jacobson)

"The God who has turned to us and restored us with peace will not tolerate those who choose to return to folly." Folly was the way of the past; the future will be altogether different with the coming of God. This coming of God, however, is not some distant hope, but instead it is "near" (verse 9). And with this coming of God, "steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other" (verse 10). (W. Dennis Tucker)

- Where will peace be found this second Sunday in Advent?

Hymn: Tomorrow Christ is coming (1,2,4) 131

#### **A quiet meditation:**

In the lonely places the wilderness where we stand forlorn windswept and alone. Your voice calls out **Prepare a way for the Lord**  
(Silence)  
In the dark places - the shadows where we hide our fears, embrace our tears. Your voice calls out **Prepare a way for the Lord.**

(Silence)

Invitation: *Welcome to the table of the Lord. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who want to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first be cleansed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is a time to be restored and renewed and find a peace that passes all understanding.*

Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands (1,3,4) 560

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

#### **Celebrating the Sacrament**

**Prayer after Communion** *Lord, you have welcomed us, Healed us, restored us and given us peace, fed us and empowered us. Send us out to live and work to your glory.*

*Send us out to reveal your presence.*

**Send us out to declare your love.**

*Send us out to proclaim your peace.*

**This day and always. Amen.**

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands (2,5) 560

