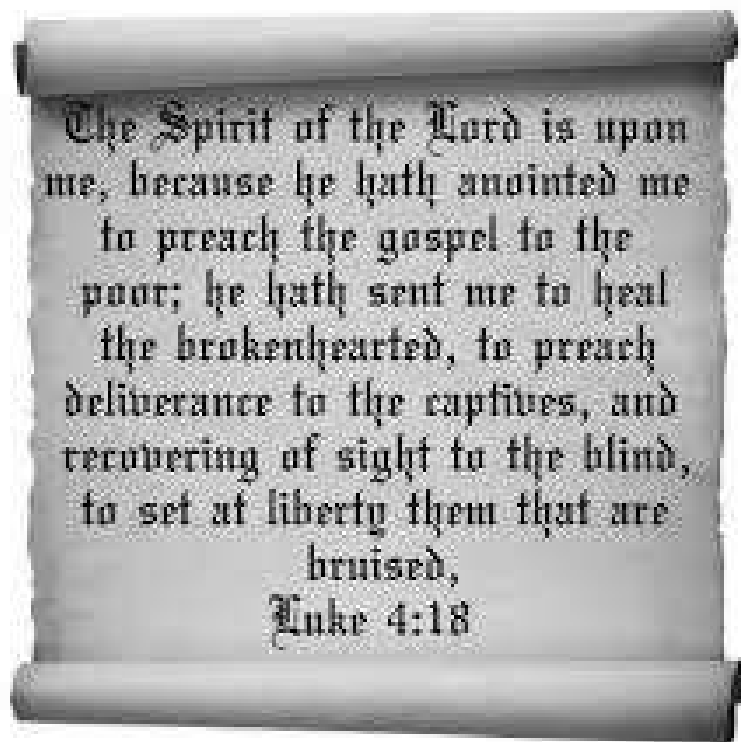


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of

**Saint David**

December 14, 2014



*The coming of our Lord is near, And we wait with joy-filled hearts,  
Draw close, God's beloved son, Teach us the wonder of your  
all-embracing love that our joy may be full this Christmas.*

Hymn: Hark the glad sound

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**Prayer of Confession:** *To you Lord, all hearts are open, no secrets are hidden. Forgive our secret sins; Forgive our habitual sins; Forgive our unnoticed sins; Our sins against ourselves, Our sins against others, Our sins against you. Lord, let our memory provide no shelter for bitterness against another. Lord, let our mind provide no foothold for prejudice against another. Lord, let our heart provide no harbour for hatred of another. Lord, let our attitude be no associate in the condemnation of another. Lord, let our tongue be no accomplice in the judgement of each other.*

**Declaration of Forgiveness** *Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us, Pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Hymn: My soul, give glory (1-3)

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**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** *The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

**A different perspective:** Christian joy is not rooted in the circumstances and struggles of our daily lives. Often, they are the bad fruit of the disorder and brokenness caused by sin. Christian Joy finds its root in the relationship we now have in and through Jesus Christ, with the Father, in the Holy Spirit...

In our Old Testament reading the Prophet Isaiah proclaims a year of favour from the Lord and calls us to rejoice heartily in the God who is the joy of our soul. (Is. 61). As Christians we know that the Lord has come, in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed trinity. The Word has become flesh and he has dwelt among us (John 1). Life is forever changed and the world is being recreated in Him. In just a few short days we will celebrate His Nativity. However, on this day we pause to remember that He has Come, he is Coming and he will Come Again. This is where we find our Joy. We who live our lives now in His Body, the Church, are the new Zion, freed from our bondage and called to dance! (from: Catholic Online)

Hymn: My soul give glory (4-5)

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*We need not fear* **His Spirit is with us**  
*We abide in His peace* **His Spirit is with us**  
*We are filled with His joy* **His Spirit is with us**  
*We are rooted in His hope* **His Spirit is with us**  
*We rest in His grace* **His Spirit is with us.** (continue in prayer)

### Celebrating the Sacrament

**Prayer after Communion** *Look, Lord, on an empty vessel that needs to be filled. In faith I am weak—strengthen me. In love I am cold—warm me and make me fervent so that my love may go out to my neighbour. I doubt and am unable to trust you completely. Lord, strengthen my faith and trust in you. You are all the treasure I possess. I am poor, you are rich, and you came to have mercy on the poor. I am a sinner, you are goodness. From you I can receive goodness, but I can give you nothing. Therefore I shall stay with you.* (Martin Luther)

Hymn: Shout for Joy! 3-4

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Invitation prayer: *Come, all you who are hungry, who thirst for a deeper faith, for a life that counts, a heart that longs to love and serve. Jesus, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be his guests. Thanks be to God. Who is it that you seek? We seek the Lord our God. Do you seek Him with all your heart? Amen. Lord, have mercy. Do you seek Him with all your soul? Amen. Lord, have mercy. Do you seek Him with all your mind? Amen. Lord, have mercy. Do you seek Him with all your strength? Amen. Christ, have mercy.*

Hymn: Shout for Joy! 1-2

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Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:  
*The Lord is here* **His Spirit is with us**