



Happy New Year! WELCOME!

We are so glad you have chosen
to worship with us this morning!

Service for the Lord's Day
January 04, 2015
Christmas 2 Covenant Sunday
**All who are able are asked to stand.*

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAINT DAVID

Our Vision:

A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community
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God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude:

*The Entry of the Scriptures

* Call to worship: *Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Come let us worship the Lord who established a covenant of grace through Jesus Christ. We come in spirit and in truth.*

*Hymn: At the dawning of salvation



248

Opening prayer: *O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.*

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, Our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, Our hesitating witness for Christ, Our evasion of responsibilities in our service, Our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Let each of us in silence make confession to God. [silence] "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

Where we Hear God's Word

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

One: *The Word of the Lord.* All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 147:12-20** *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like crumbs- who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!*
Gloria Patri (sung)

Renewing the Covenant of Grace: *Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord. 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." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." With God's help, may we be sustained in these ways of celebrating and renewing our commitments for years and generations to come. Find what it is that Christ expects of you and then give yourselves totally to his will, without bargaining and without reservation. Make us what you will, Lord, and send us where we are to go. Let us be vessels of silver or gold, or*

vessels of wood or stone; as long as we are vessels of honour we are content. If we are not the head, or the eye, or the ear, one of the nobler and more honorable instruments, then let us be the hands, or the feet, as one of the lowest and least esteemed of all the servants of our Lord. *Lord, place us in your kingdom in the roles you have designed for us.* Lord, make all of us your servants. *In exalted places, or humble places.* Let us be full; let us be empty. *Let us have all things; let us have nothing.* We freely and gladly embrace our places in your kingdom.

Prayer for Commitment and Renewal

*Hymn: Sing them over again to me 498

Sharing our Passion: John Wamboldt.

Epistle: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

Gospel: *John 1: 1-18*

One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Hymn: God of mercy, God of Grace 39

Sermon: **Covenant of Grace – grace upon grace**

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

*Doxology: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow" 830

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

"Lord, listen to your children praying" (*sung unannounced*) 449

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer ("debts & debtors")

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: Now greet the swiftly changing year 810

Commissioning and Benediction:

*Choral Amen:

Postlude:

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

We welcome all who are worshipping here today! If you are here for the first time, please sign the Guest Book at the main entrance.

David's Place gathers Fridays from 10- noon

The Circle of prayer meets Sunday at 10 in the study.

The early service Sunday at 9 am

The choir meets on Thursdays at 7: 30 pm

Jan 6, 2 pm Worship and Church Life

Traditional service at 11 am.

On Saturday, January 10 at 10 a.m. we will be removing and sorting the decorations in the church. All are welcome to help. Many hands make light work.

Session meets on January 14 at 7 pm

Jeremiah 31:7-14 For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he

freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:(1-9), 10-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Never clutch the past so tightly that it leaves your arms
unable to embrace the present (or the future). source
unknown**

PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Kenn Stright office: 423-2660

home: 477-2870

Valerie Macdonald home: 455-1893

Clerk of Session: Murray Alary

MISSION CAPSULES: Your voice is powerful. Let it be heard! Take part in the Harvest of Letters campaign and write to your MP urging the Canadian government to invest in smallholder agriculture in developing countries. Up to 80 per cent of the world's poor depend on farming to feed their families year round. With changing weather patterns, drought and the rising cost of seeds, farming is becoming more difficult and unpredictable, leaving smallholder farmers vulnerable to hunger. Financial support for innovative farming practices is one of the best ways to alleviate hunger and can make a big difference in the lives of farmers, their families and their communities. **For more information visit WeRespond.ca.**

PRAYER *Pray for the staff at the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as they begin another year of ministry.*

STEWARDSHIP The greatest lesson a soul has to learn is that God, and God alone, is enough for all its needs. This is the lesson that all God's dealings with us are meant to teach, and this is the crowning discovery of our entire Christian life. God is enough!

Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911)

We welcome younger children to our services! St. David's is still a breastfeeding friendly facility.



I Breastfeed.

The 3 R's at Saint David's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This is a 'scent free' zone for the comfort of all.

Our Greeter this morning is Davida Mackay. Our scripture reader for this morning is Our refreshment host is Anne Sommerville.

