

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

January 25, 2015



MODERN SPIRITUALITY

Gathering

*Let us take a few quiet moments now to reflect on our coming here today:
on the joys and sorrows we bring with us, on our hopes and fears,
on senses of achievement - let us enjoy them, on doubts and perplexities
let us acknowledge them and give them space here and now, in the silence . . .*

Let us be aware too of who we are:

*each of us a unique mind and spirit in this community of free faith,
each with a separate perspective, each with particular gifts to give,*

each with a different reason for being here.

Let us reflect on this here and now, in the silence . . .

*We, whose journeys are always beginning, we, whose mission always awaits us,
We, whose visions are bent on loving, we are gathered now.*

Hymn: Oh, I know

(1-2)

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Opening Prayer

*Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share. **May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you.***

*Assurance: I pray that out of God's glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. **Thanks be to God!***

Hymn: Oh, I know

(3-4)

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Searching the Scriptures **1 Samuel 3:1-10** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and

said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." A different perspective: "Americans have been turning toward spirituality as a protest vote against conventional religion. In the last dozen years, American religious institutions have undergone a myriad of crises—abuse scandals, conflicts, schism, and partisan political entanglement, to name a few—resulting in a great religious recession. Poll after poll reveals that organized religions—mainline Protestant, evangelical, Roman Catholic, and Jewish—are in varying states of disarray and decline. Sadness, even doom, has gripped many congregations, as the formerly faithful disaffiliate, and those who remain struggle to pay clergy and fix leaky roofs." (D. Butler-Bass)

Question for discussion and reflection

1. Spirituality is not part of the common language of the Presbyterian Church. What does spirituality mean to you?
2. Paul encourages us to seek the gifts of the Spirit and tells us they all have a place in God's plan for the church and for the lives of individuals (1 Corinthians 12). Identify the areas of your life that are gifts of the Spirit of God.
3. We are told there are greater gifts and that all Christians are encouraged to seek them out and live them. The greatest gift of all is identified as love. The church is seeking the relationship between head (knowledge), heart (emotion) and hand (service). How does love become the gift to encourage all three?

Hymn: Speak Lord in the stillness 442

God of many names we give ourselves into the hand of your care;

**Our past, with its joys and triumphs, its failures and regrets,
Our present, with its struggles and accomplishments, its
hopes and setbacks, Our future, with its fears and freedom,**

**its pain and possibility, trusting the Spirit that breathes life,
trusting the love that will not let us go, trusting the promise
of the Word made flesh.**

Introduction to communion: This bread is a sign of hope, it holds a story of dying and rising, of breaking and sharing, of nourishment and strengthening, of being more than enough. It is both the story of what it is in itself and the story of which it reminds us – that, on the night before his death, Jesus took bread and broke it with friends.

This wine is a sign of hope, it holds a story of dying and rising, of pouring and sharing, of refreshment and renewal, of being more than enough. It is both the story of what it is in itself and the story of which it reminds us – that, on the night before his death, Jesus took wine and poured it for friends. Drink this cup, poured out for you and for all. And we too are a sign of hope, for we too hold a story of death and rising, of old and new, of offered life taken into the hands of God, who wastes nothing, and there becoming more than enough. It is both the story of who and what we each are and the greater story of which we are a part – the ongoing story of God's reign and life on earth. And so, we do in this place what Christ did in an upper room, that the story of hope – of death and rising of new life and the fruit of the kingdom – may continue on in us, and through us. *Amen.*

Invitation: *This is the table of God on which is set tokens of love and hope and to which the Holy One calls all who want to share in that life. So come – whether your faith is strong or weak, whether your hope shines brightly or is dimmed. Come, ready to receive – for all are welcome at this feast of love.*

Hymn: Let us break bread together (1-2) 548

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Celebrating the Sacrament

Hymn: Let us break bread together (3) 548
Prayer after Communion

Eternal Spirit, Living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secrets of our hearts, and all that rises to trouble us. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Living flame, burn into us. Cleansing wind, blow through us. Fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and truth. Amen.

Hymn: I'm gonna live so God can use me

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*May God grant you spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you may be able to see things from a spiritual point of view, and so that Your lives may be worthy of God, and pleasing to Him. And may you bear fruit in all that you do, and continue to grow in your understanding of who God is. **May God give us the strength we need to endure whatever comes - with patience and even joy - always giving thanks to God who, through Jesus Christ, has given us new life.***