

WELCOME TO...  
The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**  
February 01, 2015



# A WORD FROM GOD

## *Gathering*

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a son. **God, help us to listen to his voice.** Lord, help us to listen to the voice of Jesus as he speaks to us today. **Help us to share his good news with a world***

**in need of prophetic proclamation.**

Hymn: Deep in the shadows of the past (1-2)

510

**Opening Prayer** *Eternal God, it was your prophets who spoke forth your word, to a rebellious generation. It was your Son who showed the depth of love that will not let us go. God of all ages **Accept our sacrifice of praise.** God of life, whose love enfolds us, and spirit fills us, **we praise your holy name.** God of joy, whose sunrise wakes us, and sunset amazes us, **we praise your holy name.** God of hope, whose promise sustains us, and power upholds us, **we praise your holy name.** God of love, whose patience humbles us, and touch can heal us, **we praise your holy name.** God of peace, who breaks down barriers, and walls that divide us, **we praise your holy name.** God of eternity, who has always loved us, and by grace has saved us, **we praise your holy name.** God of all ages, who from generation to generation has heard the cries of your children humbly seeking forgiveness, and has welcomed sinners back into your embrace, hear the thoughts of our hearts, examine our motives, forgive us our faults, of word and action. **We ask this through your Son, who lived died that we might know the true cost of forgiveness.***

*Assurance: Lord, we should listen to the prophetic voices you have sent, but our ears are dull and our eyes are dim and we miss bushes that burn and still small voices that whisper and even bodies that break the bonds of death. Lord have mercy on us. **Christ have mercy on us.***

Hymn: Deep in the shadows of the past (3-4)

510

Searching the Scriptures **Deuteronomy 18:15-20** The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I

myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak--that prophet shall die."

For further reflection: *One of the continuing challenges of our faith in our multi-religious and non-religious world is the question of how to share God's words with our neighbours in a way that will transform their lives, rather than cause offense. If all they hear from Christians is words, they will likely get annoyed with all the chatter and quickly tune us out. We will become a nuisance at best, and we'll be called hypocrites at worst, as we have been so many times before. But if we follow Jesus' example, then what we say will be heard along with what we do- and maybe that's the secret to Jesus authority... what he spoke was turned into acts of compassion and caring so that the two become indistinguishable. Like him, we probably will use words... but people will likely remember what we DID in a lot more detail...*

*when we fed the hungry,  
when we cared for the sick and the dying,  
when we comforted someone who was grieving,  
when we gave shelter to neighbours who were homeless,  
when we took time to befriend an outsider or to welcome a stranger.  
When we cared for and loved someone who was difficult to love.*

*That is the life that Jesus lived for us - the authoritative things that he did that transformed our lives, that called us to change, that drew us close to the holy, almighty God. When we do those things, that's when people will begin to look at us Christians and be amazed and astounded. That's when they will see the power of God at work. That's when our words will start to make sense, and those who hear us and see us will be astounded, and they too will give honour and glory to God.*

Question and comment: \* Do you feel that God has ever spoken to you? When and how?

\* How do you feel when others make this claim? Why?

\* In your opinion who today speaks truly for God? What distinguishes them?

Hymn: O Spirit come, our hearts inspire **404**

Invitation: *Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. **At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest.** Upsetting polite company, befriendng isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. **But here, at this table, he is the host.** 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 let him make them clean. **For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.** So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. **Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.***

Hymn: Here is bread: here is wine (1) **546**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

### Celebrating the Sacrament

Hymn: Here is bread: here is wine (2) **546**

### Prayer after Communion

*We thank you, gracious God, for your gracious gifts. We pray that through these same gifts you will preserve us in faith in you, unite us in your love, and confirm us in the hope of everlasting life, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us **554**

*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.***