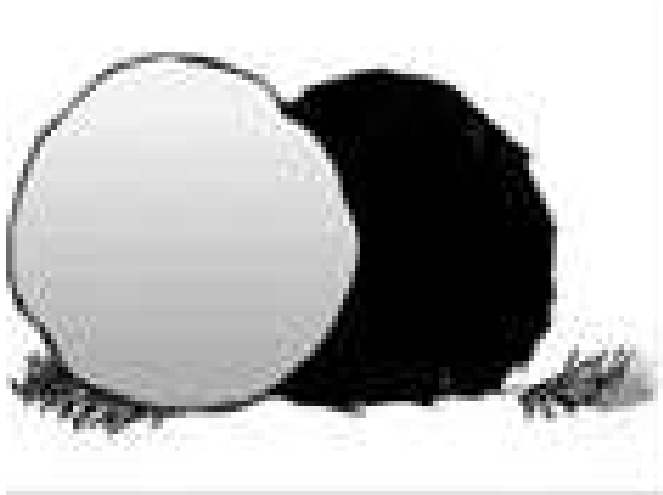


WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David



April 05, 2015 EASTER MORNING

Gathering: *The stone has been rolled away. The grave clothes are lying in a heap. The body is gone. Mary's weeping is halted by the angel's questions: Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? Let us proclaim with Mary: We have seen the risen Lord! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.*

Hymn: Sing to Jesus (1) 370
Let us worship God: *This is the day that you have made, life-giving God. Joining with angels and archangels and with the chorus that is rising throughout all the earth, we will rejoice and be glad this day. You take our endings and you make your new beginnings. Your surprise and astound us in places where we expected that you were absent. You challenge us to reconsider what is possible. Living Lord, Saviour Christ, we praise you, for you are raised by the power of God and there is a new creation and, by your grace, we are in it! Alleluia! Amen.*
Hymn: Sing to Jesus (1) 370

Opening and Confession: *Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and earth, we confess that we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation, the promise of eternal life. We live in ways that make the here and now more important than the future. We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success first over the needs of others and the long-term needs of the world. Forgive us for our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ, who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross, so that death might be no more and that all can share in the joy of salvation and eternal life, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: Sing to Jesus (2) 370

Assurance of Pardon

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen and Amen! Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Sing to Jesus (3) 370

John 20:1-18 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the

head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Hymn: This is the three-fold truth (1-2) 365

Focus Question

Has anything ever happened in your life, or the life of your church, that seemed too good to be true? Have you ever received news so good that it required a re-appraisal of your worldview? What evidence did you need in order to trust in the good news? What did you need to "see" in order to "go tell"? This was the moment that changed the world, and, hopefully, our expectations, even today, two thousand years later. Where do you stand in a world made new by the events of Easter Sunday so long ago? Where does your church stand in such a world? What, then, will you do?

Hymn: This is the three-fold truth (3-4) 365

May we, our God, in the wake of Easter, ride a wave of irrepressible hope— rising from the deep following the path of love over the turbulences of our living and through the currents.

So within joy, may we sense Your presence hovering ever with us— ever speaking new creation— ever calling us into possibility. Amen.

Invitation: *Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe. What you have heard has the capacity to change the world. Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God. It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.*

Hymn: I come with joy (1-3) 530
Prayer of Thanksgiving: *We give thanks to you, Lord, for you have done marvellous things! When we were walking in darkness you were there, you were there, when we were kneeling in weakness you were there, you were there, when we drew near feeling worthless you were there, you were there, when we were needing forgiveness you were there, you were there, when we were searching for your grace you were there, you were there. We give thanks to you, Lord, for you have done marvellous things! Let us bless the bread that gives itself to us with its terrible weight, its infinite grace. Let us bless the cup poured out for us with a love that drenches, that makes us anew. Let us gather around these gifts simply given and deeply blessed. And when we are finished let us go bearing the bread, carrying the cup, laying the table within a hungry world. We come to the Table where, by the presence of the Spirit, bread becomes the grace we need, the cup offers us the hope for which we long. Taking them up, you transfigure them into that sacred meal of love which strengthens us in Christ. Amen.*

Hymn: I come with joy (4-5) 530
Communion

Prayer following communion: **Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your Easter people. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: He is Lord 252

Sending: *Go forth in joy. We have God's kingdom in our heart. Go forth in love. We will live for the Lord. Go with hope and forgiveness. The grace of God sustains. Go forth in peace. We Go to be light in the world.*