

WELCOME TO...  
The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**

April 26, 2015



**Opening:** *In this quiet moment we seek to know your will for us out in the world where we live and move and have our being.. In this gathering we seek a word to guide us, a community to support us and your love to strengthen us for the task of being your church. In this time of worship, may our minds be open to new truth, and our hearts be receptive to love, as we give thanks for this life we are blessed to share.*

**Hymn:** Brother , sister, let me serve you (1-2) 635

**Confession:** *My Lord God, I confess that I am the priest and the Levite. Not only did I walk past, I walked away. I was too busy, too frightened, my heart was too cold. In my own abundance, I was too poor in spirit to bear the cost. In my own comfort, I was too complacent to suffer any inconvenience. It was the Samaritan, a man despised and without pride of position or parentage, who was faithful and loving and who gave of himself sacrificially. God, in your mercy, say that it is not too late for me. Another may have borne the burden, but I can go to the inn and sit with the traveler while he heals. I can bathe his wounds and feed him*

and lighten his spirit until the Good One returns. Grant me the grace to do that little service with a grateful heart; please stand with me so that I will not walk away and shun the greater service the next time. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, the sinner. Amen.

**Hymn:** Brother , sister, let me serve you (3-4) 635

**A story (Luke 10: 25ff.) “A Samaritan came by”** ... he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

**Hymn:** When the poor ones (1-2) 762

**Focus Question** In what ways has the church fulfilled the role of ‘Good Samaritan’? How do we still ‘pass by on the other side’?

**“A Story: The Woman and the Stone”** A wise woman who was travelling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveller who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveller saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveller left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he said, "I know how

valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. "Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

Hymn: When the poor ones (3-4)

762

**A Celebration of Faith** *In response to the word reflected on, let us stand and share a celebration of faith. We have gathered in the presence of God:*

**source, essence, and aim of all things, spirit that enlivens all beings.** *We follow the way of Jesus, who lived a life of service and shared a way for others to find God. He was born through love, He lived for love, He suffered for love, He died for love, but love never dies.* We submit ourselves to the leadings of the love that is God, that we may be compassionate to all beings, **that we may live and serve in community with others, that we may ask for and offer forgiveness, that we may praise and enjoy God forever.**

*Let us take a moment to celebrate each other. May a heart of peace rest with you. And also with you. ( share the peace with your neighbours).*

**Prayers of the People** God of love, give us a deep love for you, so that we can see the world as you see it, feel the compassion you feel, and be a people whose lives mediate your love to others. So open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. And so we pray for all those, who in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten and left for dead. We pray for children who must grow up in the most awful of circumstances, especially for those starved of love, or food, or shelter or security. May they receive the future you have planned for them. We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid. Who have been excluded socially because of their race, their financial status, or their history. May the dignity that is theirs be restored to them. We pray for those whose need we would rather not face up to, because it requires action of us, those who suffer atrocities because of war, unjust trade rules, or oppressive governments. May the world receive a true picture of their suffering and the factors that cause it, that justice may be done. Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. Give us a deep love for you, that we might see your love at work in this world, and that we might Go and do likewise. **Amen.**

**Invitation:** *Called in grace and gifted in love, Jesus gathered with his friends*

*and shared a meal. Bread of life, cup of blessing. "Do this in remembrance of me." This table is God's offer of grace and an invitation to community. **Where forgiveness is found and we are called to be the body of Christ, affirmed in our shared mission, and empowered for discipleship. Come, share the feast!***

Hymn: All who hunger (1-2)

534

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *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. We give thanks to you, God, for this meal. Simple. Elegant. Refreshing. Re-creating. May we hear the call: Love one another as you have loved us. One body, many members, the body of Christ. 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: All who hunger (3)

534

### **Communion**

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing (1)

775

**Prayer following communion:** *Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal. **Now soften our hearts to Your will, and make us to love others as You have loved us; especially those who are most in need, whom we pass by every day. In Jesus' name, Amen***

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing (2)

775

Benediction: *May the God of challenges call us to minister with renewed purpose and drive. **May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary. May the God of love be seen in all we do and say. Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun! Amen.***