

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
May 17, 2015 EASTER 7
That all may be One



Gathering: (together) Meet us here today, O Unity, and teach us to be one: One in love for each other - one in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You; one in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever: "May they all be one."

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

400

Prayer of Confession: *As disciples of Christ, we proclaim in our words the hope "that we may all be one", yet often we become bound, even imprisoned, by our fears or distrust of those who seem different from us in some way. When our fears bind us, we forget our calling to be witnesses in the world of the love of God manifest in Christ Jesus and in each of us. **The fear of difference causes us to retreat and separate ourselves from others. The fear of difference imprisons us in cells of our own making.***

Assurance of Pardon: *Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us! The glory that God has manifested in Jesus Christ is given to us even now so that we may live and love as one, for in Christ, we are one. **The promise of God is to guard the lives of the faithful, and rescue us from the hand of anything binds us and separates us from God, and one another.***

Hymn: Called as Partners (1-2)

587

John 17:6-19 [Jesus said:] "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. "And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and

not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Hymn: Called as Partners (3-4)

587

Quick Reflection (Kate Huey) *Learning to live in "the in-between time"*

Jesus had already turned the disciples' lives upside down, and they were never going to be the same. But during that quiet after-dinner conversation, they must have felt that everything was about to change once again, and we all know what change brings: anxiety. Bergant observes that the disciples were in a "liminal time in between, a time of change and transition." The disciples, however, were not unique in this regard. We all face change and uncertainty, and sooner or later, we too live in a liminal time, a time for decision and a time for trust. Bergant describes the disciples' very human desire to "cling to what they have known while realizing that things are no longer what they were before," and their need to "rethink their priorities, reorder their lives, and reconstitute their community" (*Preaching the New Lectionary Year B*). Does that sound familiar? When we're going through change, loss and uncertainty, we can take heart that other faithful people have been here before us. We can take heart when we remember that we have one another to love, the assurance of the Word, and the comfort of knowing that "We are a community for whom Jesus prays." This reassurance gives us the courage to speak the truth, even in the face of danger and hatred.

Hymn: Let us break bread together (1)

548

Invitation: *Jesus says: 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.'* **Thanks be to God.** *God has made us one in Christ.*

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

Come, everything is ready.

Hymn: Let us break bread together (2)

548

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. May the God of joy be with you. And with you as well.*

(Continue in thanksgiving) *O God, giver of all that is good,*

We thank you for this bread and this fruit of the vine, symbols of the harvest of your good earth, and we look to the day when we will all eat together in the power of unity with you and one another.

Communion

Hymn: Let us break bread together (3)

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Prayer following communion: *Gracious God, your Son prayed for his disciples that they would be one, as you and he are one. As we have eaten of the one bread, and drunk from the one cup, keep your whole church harmoniously together in faith and love, united by the one Spirit. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing

775

Sending: *The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Comforter be with you and your now and forever. Amen*