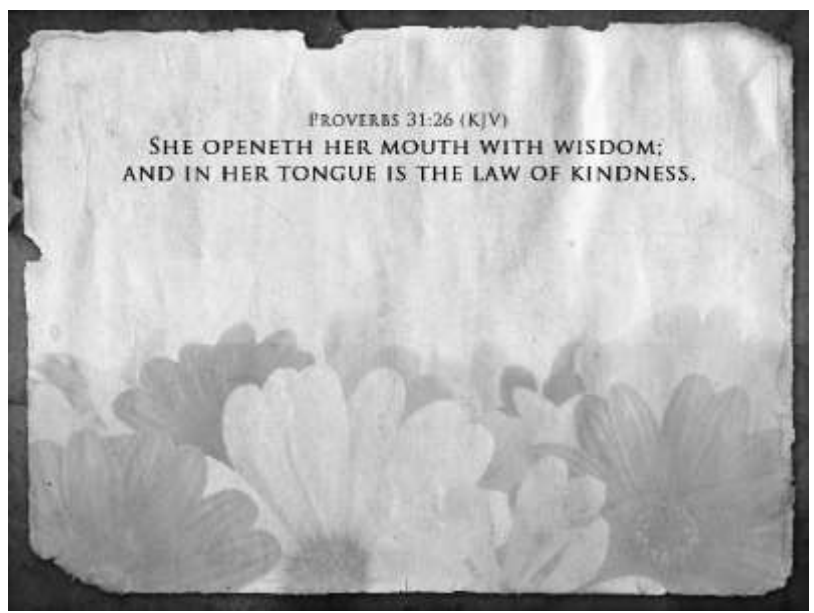


WELCOME TO...  
The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**  
September 13, 2015 9 a.m.



## ***WOMAN WISDOM***

Call to Worship: *Listen! Wisdom is calling!* Before all began, God , Word, and Wisdom, Creating, calling, from the foundations of the deep. *Listen! Wisdom is calling!* From the mountain tops Earth, fields and sea, creating, calling from the foundations of the deep. *Listen! Wisdom is calling!* To those who suffer God's love is given. Endurance blossoms from the foundations of the deep *Listen! Wisdom is calling!* Daily, God's delight. You, me, every one Given hope, grace, love. As the foundation of our lives. *Listen! Wisdom is calling!* Poured into our hearts that we may become Christ's hand and heart, love. As the foundation of our lives. *Listen! Wisdom is calling!*

Hymn: O Holy Spirit (verse 3) 391

Confessional Prayer: *We long for wisdom, O Lord, but prefer that it be our own. We turn away from the ideas of others and ignore the possibility and promise that come from life together with you. Most of all, we drown out your gift of Wisdom as she seeks to get our attention, for we believe that we know better or would prefer to decide where we make her welcome. Forgive us, loving God. Bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you, and awaken us anew to the Wisdom that comes only from you. Show us how to walk in your ways and listen to your promise each and every day. Assurance of Forgiveness God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Jesus Christ became for us righteousness, and holiness and redemption. And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

Hymn: Jesus' hands were kind hands 631

A reading from the scriptures Proverbs 1:20-33 Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers

delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

Hymn: I sing the Almighty Power (1-2) 333

**A time to discuss** • What do you make of the fact that Wisdom is personified as a woman? Why do you think this was a common image in the ancient world, despite the low status of women in their cultures? • In this allegory, Wisdom's speech is made publicly in the city. Is the "voice of Wisdom" really that easy to hear? What other voices might compete with hers? • If you were 'Woman Wisdom,' how would you warn the people of Israel? • What is it about a warning that can make it so hard to believe? If it were possible to look into the future, do you think anyone would choose to ignore wisdom? Why or why not? • Is it true (verse 22) that many people would rather remain in their folly than to follow wisdom? Explain. • What are the consequences of ignoring Wisdom (verses 24-32)? Do they seem harsh?

Hymn: I sing the Almighty Power (3) 333

**Invitation to the Table:** *What do you bring to Christ's table? We bring bread, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have plenty and most go hungry. At this table, all are fed and no one turned away. Thanks be to God. What do you bring to Christ's table? We bring wine, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have leisure and most struggle to survive. At this table, all share the cup of pain and celebration And no one is*

*denied. Thanks be to God. These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ, Our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, and our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed. Thanks be to God.*  
~ written by Brian Wren

Hymn: There is a story (1-3) 504

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. Creator God, we give you thanks for wisdom words. May your word of wisdom pour out of me like water to the thirsty, and may my life be full of the fruit of the Spirit. All I am and have I give back to you with open hands knowing that all my needs you will meet as I go with you. Today I take up my cross and follow you. Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life. May this meal restore us to health and wholeness and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.*

### Communion

**Prayer following communion:** *Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory.*

Hymn: There is a story (4-6) 504