

WELCOME TO...  
The Presbyterian Church of  
**Saint David**  
September 20, 2015

***PEACEMAKING SUNDAY***

Call to Worship: *The prophet Micah said: "What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

**Gracious and Loving God, We have come into your presence seeking your peace, seeking your hope, seeking your comfort. Equip us to be your people.**

Hymn: Dear Father, Lord (1-2)

451

Confessional Prayer: *Introduction* In our own families and communities and across the world conflict arises. It may be a small disagreement which causes anxiety or it may be something which has escalated into violence and warfare. Some conflict is easily resolved. But other conflict needs something more. People may say that it would take a miracle to see peace in this place. We have seen those miracles, where lives have been changed and peace has been built in our generation. This doesn't mean one party just caves in and lets the other have their way. It takes time and energy to arrive at a place of peace and justice where there has been violence and mistrust. Today

in our worship we will use some examples from Kenya and Rwanda to help us to think about what it means to be peacebuilders and how we can walk for peace and thirst for justice in our own communities and further afield. Let us pray. *God of love and wonder, you call your people to seek justice to love mercy, and to humbly walk with you. We pray that we, inspired by your spirit, may be for ever uneasy until all your people in every community and every land live in peace and know justice, freedom and love day by day, through Christ our Lord. Gracious God, you told us to love one another and we end up quarrelling again. We remember times when we have fought and argued, with our families and friends, at home and in our community:*

**Forgive us, Help us to walk in peace and thirst for justice**

*You sent your son Jesus Christ to show us how to live, but so often we think we know better. We remember times that we have not been patient and tolerant with others with whom we come into contact*

**Forgive us, Help us to walk in peace and thirst for justice**

*You are always seeking to forgive us and love us back into your kingdom, but we often find it difficult to forgive others and turn away from them and from you or bit out in anger and frustration.*

**Forgive us, Help us to walk in peace and thirst for justice**

*We remember all those who work for peace, we remember the wars fought in the past and the sacrifice of those who gave up their lives to give us peace. We remember all places where there is still fighting and trouble and the people who suffer because of it. Silence God of mercy you show us a new heaven and a new earth; we confess that we have not lived up to your dreams for us. We have let our prejudices cloud our ability to love our neighbours, we have let our fears keep us from following you into the broken places of our world. **Forgive us, give us***

**the courage to listen for your call and to follow the risen Christ into those places where you would lead us.** *Silence When our pain is too deep for words, God stands with us, offering grace. When we are weary from the weight of the brokenness, God stands with us, offering grace. **And God stands with us now, offering grace and mercy. Thanks be to God.** Let us say together the prayer which Jesus taught to his first disciples:*

Hymn: Dear Father, Lord (3-4)

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**James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a** Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not

come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you

Hymn: For the healing of the Nations (1-2) **736**  
 The followers of Christ have been called to peace. ... And they must not only have peace but also make it. And to that end they renounce all violence and tumult. In the cause of Christ nothing is to be gained by such methods. ... His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others. They maintain fellowship where others would break it off. They renounce hatred and wrong. In so doing they overcome evil with good, and establish the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate. *—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*

What groups are in conflict today in our context? □ What divides them? □ What could enable them to be reconciled? □ What would a new heaven and a new earth look like in that setting? □ What is the good news that can be brought to those whose lives are torn apart by conflict and violence? □ How can we follow Christ's example in bringing reconciliation? □ What practical actions are we to take as individuals and as a community to foster peace building and reconciliation? □ How can we be a peacemaker... in our lives?

Hymn: For the healing of the Nations (3-4) **736**



**Invitation to the Table:** *Here is the table of the Lord, we are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal. We come, when we*

**are fearful, to be made new in love. We come, when we are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. We come, when we are regretful, and be made whole. Come, there is room for all**

Hymn: Broken for me (1-2) **550**

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. O God, from before time you made ready the Creation. Through your Wisdom, your Spirit moved over the deep and brought to birth the heavens: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; growing things, both plants and animals; and finally humankind. You took us by the hand, and taught us to walk in the way of peace. And though you led us with compassion and love, we wandered far away. Yet as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. The world had waited long in pain and hope, when you acted anew in Creation. In order that we might see and know the riches of your grace, Jesus of Nazareth was born and lived among us, suffered and died, and rose again, to lead us into eternal life. He ascended into heaven to fill all things, and gave to us the Spirit, the wellspring of strength, to help us carry the Good News to all peoples.* (the prayer continues)

Hymn: Broken for me (3-4) **550**

**Communion**

**Prayer following communion:** *Gracious, gift-giving, peace-offering God, We ask now that you would supply us with all that we need to be makers of peace in our neighbourhood, our country, and even to the ends of our world. We ask for your grace, a strength to love in the moments when we see little human basis for optimism or people changing their ways. We ask for your endurance, for the times when obstinacy seems to be prevailing over optimism, when the victim mentality wins out against the willingness to be vulnerable. We ask for your wisdom, when there seems to be so little basis for compromise, and for a sense of stillness in our lives which enables us to bring order and perspective where there is only chaos. We ask, most of all, for the empowering of your Spirit, to infuse every aspect of our lives with the heady mix of compassion and courage that only you can supply. Amen.*

Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace **740**