

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

November 01, 2015



Call to worship: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That it is not we who chose Christ, but Christ who chose us, That we are not here because of our goodness but because of Christ's grace, That we are not here to enlighten ourselves, but to allow Christ to enlighten us, That we have not come to be entertained but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Hymn: From all that dwell below the skies

77

Opening prayer: *Gracious God, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Joshua, the son of Nun, was appointed by Moses to succeed him as leader of Israel. Anyone in a position of leadership has unique challenges, but I think that Joshua's challenge was even harder than most, because whenever someone follows in the steps of a great leader, they usually pale in comparison to their predecessor! Joshua's biggest challenge was to try and fill Moses' shoes!

Hymn: One more step (1-3)

641

Scripture: Joshua 1: 1-9 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, ²'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Hymn: One more step (4-5)

641

A brief conversation: In the opening chapter of Joshua the people of Israel find themselves on the edge of the Promised Land, they can see it clearly with their own eyes. However in order to take the Promised Land they faced big challenges. Firstly Moses their leader was dead and they had a new leader in Joshua. Secondly they faced the same challenge as their forbearers, who said that it couldn't be done and consequently died in the wilderness. Thirdly in order to take the land they had to step out of their comfort zone and step out in faith. Up till now God had supplied their every need and kept them fed. They may well have found it boring and complained from time to time, but at least it was safe. And 'safe' is often where we find ourselves. Now they were moving into unknown territory there would be big steps of faith involved, they wouldn't always understand what they were doing and they would have to fight battles. Some of them naturally opted to settle where they were on the east bank of the Jordan, but even they would be required to help take the rest of the land. I believe we stand in a very similar position and we could just stay where we are and maintain a Christian presence in our own little patch or we can step out of our comfort zone and attempt great things for God.

REALITY - THIS JOB IS MINE, Vss. 1-2 Moses was dead. Joshua was the new leader. He was responsible. Sometimes God will startle us into the reality that a job that once belonged to someone else now belongs to us.

REASSURANCE - GOD IS WITH ME, Vss. 3-5 Just as God was with Moses, God would be with Joshua. Just as God is with others, God will also be with me.

RESPONSIBILITY - DO AS GOD SAYS, Vss. 6-9

The secret to success for doing God's work, is to do things God's way. The biggest responsibility I have is to obey God.

Hymn: May the mind of Christ 644

Invitation to the Table: *Come: you from the East and you from the West, from the North and from the South. Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies and with your strengths. We come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.*

Hymn: One bread, one body (1-2) 530

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. In our sharing bread today we include in companionship the saints alive and the saints resurrected. In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship the poor, marginalized and rejected of this world. In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now. AMEN! In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship Jesus, our incarnated, broken and risen Lord. AMEN! Wine is for sorrow and for joy, for suffering and for celebration, for forgiveness and for New Relationship. We drink until Christ returns. AMEN! United in our love for you and one another, we join together in the prayer that you taught your friends, saying: Our Father...*

Hymn: One bread, one body (3-4) 530

Communion

Prayer following communion: *God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.*

Hymn: The Lord Bless you 619

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing. May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love, bless your eyes and widen your gaze. May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless our eyes and sharpen our vision. May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.