

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

October 04, 2015

**World  
Communion**



**Sunday**

Call to Communion: *God prepares a banquet table for us and calls us to feast together. We have come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at Christ's table. Compassion, love, and grace are poured out like fine wine. We have come to taste and see that the Lord is good!*

Opening Prayer: *Creator, Christ, and Spirit; deeply we hunger for fulfillment and deeply you touch our hunger and fill us: you are our bread and our sustenance in every time and season. Deeply we thirst for communion with you and deeply you invite us to drink: you are sweetness of life, you are the fullness of life, you are life itself. Deeply we desire for what is true and what endures: and it is you alone who is truth, you alone who is genuine, it is you alone who was, who is, and who shall be. Holy One, you are our hunger filled, you are our thirst quenched, and you our desire fulfilled, so to you one God, now and forever, we give your our praise.*

Hymn: Nothing can trouble

617

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29*

"When I think of World Communion Sunday, I get excited about the fact that tens of thousands of Christian brothers and sisters around the world are coming to the Lord's Table to remember our Lord and to proclaim his final victory to the world. It doesn't matter what part of the world we're hailing from, because from God's perspective there are no political, ethnic, cultural or national boundaries. From God's perspective we are One people, the People of God! One of the things that excites me about church history is that the first-century church believed that Christ's church stands for a radical inclusion of all of God's children. They believed that all those barriers we as humans work so hard to build, God in Christ broke through. In an anonymous letter that survived from the early 2nd century addressed to Diognetus, a Roman official, the author actually speaks about Christianity as a "new race:"

*The Mystery of the New People. To His Excellency, Diognetus: I understand, sir, that you are really interested in learning about the religion of the Christians, and that you are making an accurate and careful investigation of the subject....*

... You would also like to know the source of the loving affection that they have for each other. You wonder, too, why this new race or way of life has appeared on earth now and not earlier. These three questions are dealt with in the text, more or less in order, but with some overlapping. The reference to the "New [third] Race" calls attention to an issue of great importance for the life of the Early Church, which concerned such varied questions as the Church's understanding of its vocation in history and the Roman world's attitude toward the Church.

And that should be the message of the church worldwide "You are welcome here—every single one of you! For God's grace is enough for all! God's love is poured out to all, and whosoever believes shall be saved" (John 3.16). Whosoever!

With the arrival of the church of Jesus Christ a new age has dawned. Nobody ever needs to feel excluded again; for, as St. Paul says it: "all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Brothers and sisters, Paul clearly declares to us that there are no second-class Christians; if you are a baptized believer you're all the way in the inner sanctum; you are in the holy of holies; the veil has been torn. Everyone is welcome and everyone is equal in God's eyes. We are all children of God. We are to be one in Christ; we are to be the new race made up of a multitude of diverse people. We are one and in our oneness lies our strength; in our oneness will the world see the difference in us—through our love with the world see the love and grace of Jesus Christ." *Rev. Frank Schaefer*

God, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in you is calmness, peace, and concord. Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another and bring us back to a unity of love bearing some likeness to your divine nature. Through the embrace of love and the bonds of godly affection, make us one in the Spirit by your peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCW, p. 812, Dionysius of Alexandria, died 264)

Hymn: Eat this bread 527

**Invitation to the Table:** *We do this and we remember that as we were welcomed at the table we must make room for everyone. We do this and we remember that as we have been fed we must ensure that others do not go hungry. We do this and we remember that as we have been served we are called to serve others. We do this and we remember that as we have seen God's goodness we are sent into the world to show it.*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (3) 528

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. Maker of the fields, forests, and streams, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the movement of your Spirit over our waters, at our tables, and among our gatherings, help us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your gifts, extend our table to the stranger, and care for the land and water we share on this good earth, through Jesus Christ, the fruitful vine, and our bread of life.* (the prayer continues)

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (4) 528

### Communion

**Prayer following communion:** *Christ does not invite us only to sit at table with him. Christ does not invite us only to eat and drink with him. Christ does not invite us only to come to him. Rather, Christ invites us to go out into the world, so we go, with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and Communion in the Holy Spirit going before us.*

Hymn: Go now in Peace 622