

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
November 08, 2015
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE



Call to worship: On this day of memory we gather to sing and to pray, **we remember the past and look to the future. We remember when the guns once fell silent, We come before you God, seeking Your peace. On this day of hope in the face of terror, We come before you God, praying with all our hearts: God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Help us to find the path that leads to the Peaceable kingdom. Open our eyes and the eyes of the nations to find a different path through the disagreements of life in this world. In this time of story, song, and prayer, may we be re-committed to being people of Peace, true peace. May we catch a vision of how the world could live together. And so we echo the old prayers, Make us channels of your peace. Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us! Amen**

Hymn: Comfort, comfort you my People (vs. 1) **113**
Prayer: *Christ sets before us this day life and death and calls for us to choose life that we and our children may live. We accept life, so teach us to live. Christ sets before us this day the challenge to seek peace and to pursue it. We accept the challenge of peace, so enable us to pursue it. Christ sets before us this day the call to be peacemakers; to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to a suffering world. We gather to embody God's love and desire for peace for all people; to hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace. We gather to name and confront the influence of evil within and among us; to repent of our silence and complicity with the powers of chaos and death. We gather to join with the oppressed and troubled people of the world in the struggle for liberation and peace; to work for justice, healing and wholeness of life. We gather to embrace the unity of God's people and Christ's church; to make peace a reality.* (silence)

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

Confession: *God of peace, Forgive us when we have participated in that which turns people against each other; for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance, for not heeding your call to love one another. Inspire us never to give up on the hope that your life offers us, and the courage to see past war and desolation and live for the day when it will be peace.* (silence)

Hymn: For the healing of the Nations (1-2) **736**

Scripture James 4: 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. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

A brief conversation: We might imagine that it is only we moderns for whom conflict is a problem. But James lifts up as one of the greatest of the gifts of wisdom its capacity to lead humans to peaceful resolution of conflict. (James 3:18). Furthermore, in what seems only too modern in theme, James identifies our difficulty in satisfying our insatiable wants and desires for things as the root cause of the inevitable coveting and cravings that lead to conflict, disputes, and eventually to outright war (James 4:1-3). In ironic reversal, it is then our repeated experience that what we might see as feeding the end goal of our pleasure, becomes instead the harbinger of death (James 4:2). (James Boyce)

“Most of the wars which have occurred in the world can be traced to what the apostle here calls lusts. The desire of booty, the love of conquest, the ambition for extended rule, the gratification of revenge, these and similar causes have led to all the wars that have desolated the earth.” (Albert Barnes)

Intercessions: For those involved in conflicts... **The innocent**
The guilty The injured Orphaned Widowed Politicians
Peacemakers Relief workers

For those involved in conflicts... **Bring comfort Compassion**
Sustenance Repentance Forgiveness Healing
Tears Love And a peace that can endure

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness 324

*Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle,
the strength to be forgiving,
the patience to be understanding,
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe to be right.*

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence. Help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we were created.

Invitation to the Table: *At this table God invites us all to share in the Banquet of Life. The meal we share is provided by God, for this table belongs to God; not the church, not the people. And so God invites all those who seek to walk in The Way to eat and drink from it. Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.*

Hymn: Eat this bread, drink this cup 527

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 Love of God, the Strength of Christ, and the Comfort of the Spirit be with you. We gather here, Gracious God, with hearts of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks for all the gifts with which you have blessed us: for the Created world in which we live, for family and friends with whom we share our lives, for food on our plates and roofs over our heads, for all those things that make life abundant ...time of silent prayer... We offer our thanks and praise. Gracious God, pour out you Spirit upon this gathering, this table, this meal. As we eat and drink in fellowship with each other may we be filled with hope for the future. May the Spirit moving amongst us in this place allow this meal to rejuvenate and empower us as we go out to live your love in the world.*

United in our love for you and one another, we join together in the prayer that you taught your friends, saying: Our Father...

Words of Institution

Hymn: Behold the lamb of God 525
Communion

Prayer following communion:

Hymn: May the God of Hope 726

He is our hope. Through him, we pray for peace; with him, we work for peace. In him, we live for peace: the peace of God's children to the glory of God. Amen

There will be a congregational luncheon next Sunday after the 11 am service on the model of Sunday Suppers. Please consider joining in this celebration.