

WELCOME TO...
 The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
 November 15, 2015
WE ARE NOT ALONE



"I feel like Fox Mulder from the X Files.
 Somebody! Call the Space Agency.

We are Not Alone!

But you are not alone I am here with you
 Though we're far apart you're always in my heart
 But you are not alone
 (Michael Jackson)

Call to worship: *Our hearts are hopeful Our faith believing*
We're not alone

You are here Your promise tells us You're always with us

We're not alone You are here

Holy God, you knew us before we took our first breath.

You uttered your living Word and brought forth light, love, and life.

You gathered us from the dust of the earth and called us your people.

You sent us into the world to proclaim your mighty and wondrous deeds.

You are with us even now as we continue our call.

Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.

Hymn: As pants the Hart (vs. 1-3)

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Prayer: *Generous and gracious God, we look to you for compassion and thank you for your presence this day. Overwhelmed by our burdens we easily forget that you never leave us alone and that your steadfast love for us never falters.*

By coming together we find assurance and comfort that we do not walk the journey of life alone. You have given us strength to live through this life. Turn us to reach out to those whose journey is long and difficult. Grant that we may be your healing presence in their lives by bringing them your compassion and comfort that will assure them that they do not walk alone. Amen.

Assurance: *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'*

Response: Nothing can Trouble

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Scripture Psalm 139: 7-12: ⁻¹² Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight?

If I climb to the sky, you're there!

If I go underground, you're there!

If I flew on morning's wings

to the far western horizon,

You'd find me in a minute—

you're already there waiting!

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!

At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

Hymn: As pants the Hart (vs. 4-5)

26

Have you ever felt alone? To be alone means to be without someone or something. Sometimes we want to be alone and times we dread being alone. We may feel alone without someone's presence, alone with someone present, alone in a decision or alone in a relationship we believed would meet our need to never be alone. We need people with us to live life, particularly when we face trouble, problems or pain because God created us with a need to be with other people for us to be complete. When God created people, he said it was not good for them to be alone (Gen. 2:18) so he created other people. This was not only true of people needing the presence of other people but people needing the presence of God. The Bible describes God coming to be with the first people he created, Adam and Eve, "...walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze..." (Gen. 3:8, HCSB) What about us? How does a Christian know they are not alone regardless of the circumstances? How can we especially know God is with us? Is it because of what we feel or see? No, it is because of the very things David knew about God. We can know when we feel alone: Wherever I am, God is with me, cares for me and waits for me. One thing we can know when we feel alone is: Wherever I am, God is with me. (Psalm 139:7-9) David says, "I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!" (v.7) David didn't want to run from God's presence but confesses even if he tried it was impossible. The word "presence" is the word "face" meaning we are always before God's face. David continues his awareness of God's presence by pointing out there are no limits to God's presence in life spiritually, in heaven or the grave, and no limits to his presence physically, which is what he means by "wings of the morning" and "the farthest oceans". In the morning, the sun rises in the east and the only oceans David knew were in the west (Mediterranean Sea), he is saying God's presence is unlimited. David is always before God's face. (Dr. Bruce Tippit) In the best known Psalm of all, David simply affirms "you are with me..."

Invitation to the Table: *The Bread we break is the Bread of Life. The Cup we share is the Cup of Promise. These are gifts from God for the people of God. Come and eat. For all is now ready.*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (1-2) 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. God of the ages, here at this table we remember all the ways you have spoken to your children through the ages. Through prophets and priests you call us to a new way of living together. Through voices expected and unexpected you challenge us to see the world with new eyes. Knowing that we stand in the midst of a cloud of witnesses, we share the cry of ages: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in God's Name! Of all the ways you have communicated with us, we who call ourselves Christian take special notice of the man from Nazareth: Jesus, Child of Mary. We seek to live the love that he modelled and taught, accepting all regardless of status or station, eating and speaking with the outcast and the lowly, he offered us a foretaste of the time when the Reign of God is real on earth in all its fullness. Pour out your holy Spirit as we continue in prayer, saying...*

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

Words of Institution

Hymn: Behold the lamb of God 525

Communion:

Prayer following communion: *The bread has been broken, the cup has been poured, the meal has been shared. Gracious God, we give thanks for bread for the journey, for your wisdom guiding us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to believe that you walk beside on the journey of life. Amen.*

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us 554

Sending: *Listen to the promise Jesus makes: I will never abandon you as orphans - I will come to you. Even though the world will not be able to see me, I will never vanish from your sight. And since I live, you will also live. Go from here in the knowledge that you do not go alone: the power and presence of God goes with you.*

Praise be to God!

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