

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 10, 2016



BAPTISM

Gathering: *God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hymn: Lead us

647

Prayer of Confession: *With joy draw waters from the well of salvation! Forgiveness is real! **Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven.** Jesus said: "There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." **Truly, God is our salvation we shall trust and not be afraid!** The peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you** (we continue in prayer)*

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Continuing the Conversation: Beth Quick,

"...baptism is primarily a symbol of what God is doing for us, not what we are doing for God. Baptism, as we understand it, is an outward symbol of God's grace working within us. So this grace is working in us before we are even aware of it. From day one and before day one, God is already working grace through our hearts and souls, calling us into a relationship with God. When we are ready to accept God's grace on our own, with our own voice, we

go through confirmation, our public acceptance of the grace that has been at work within us, our public declaration that we're going to do our part in this relationship with God.

This understanding of baptism as a symbol of God's grace helps answer our questions about why Jesus comes here to see John, to be baptized. Why does Jesus need to be baptized? He doesn't need to repent in the same way we do, but as I've mentioned, "to repent," in its literal meaning, means to turn around, to turn back, to go a new direction – God's direction. Jesus doesn't need to turn a new direction in the same way we do – he doesn't need to get off a wayward course. But his baptism does mark a change in direction for him, in that now he begins his ministry of preaching and teaching. Now he changes his identity from Jesus, child of Mary and Joseph, to Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God."

What meaning do you associate with Baptism?

Do you 'remember your baptism' as part of your everyday response to life?

Hymn: I'm gonna live (1-2) 647

Intercessory Prayers

Sisters and brothers, our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world.

Lord God, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people.

Sanctify us by the same Spirit, that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name. Amen.

Hymn: I'm gonna live (1-2) 647

Invitation: The promise is that when you are together, when you tell the story and give the blessing, when you break the bread and pour the wine you will discover a foretaste of love made real and of a world made whole.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Rejoice in the Lord always. Shout out his name. For God is with us. Our God is with us. The God of our salvation in whom alone we trust. Rejoice in the Lord always Shout out his name* (we continue in prayer) *Gracious God, remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming. By your word and Spirit, O God, sanctify these your own gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which we break may be to us communion in the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless may be communion in the blood of Christ Come, holy Spirit, come.*

Hymn: Let us break bread together 548

Communion

Prayer following communion

God, your voice moves over the waters.

Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your images, and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: For the Bread 549

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls and minds; may the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore. **Amen**

There is a meeting at 12:15 at St. Matthew's United to further discuss our refugee sponsorship.