

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 24, 2016

God Sent Jesus With Good News

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because **he has anointed me to proclaim good**

news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Luke 4:18c NIV



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GOOD NEWS

Gathering: *Jesus stood up, unrolled the scroll just as had Ezra, the priest-scribe, and announced to the assembly... and to us... that God is in our midst this day.*
Earth is holy now. *Anoint our being and doings, Touch all our days, with grace.*
Let us honour this world and its people.

Hymn: Hark the glad sound (1-3)

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Unison Prayer of Confession **Rock of our salvation, we know the faults we try to hide from you and those around us. We have not cared for people in the same way. We do think some are more gifted, or better, or lovelier. We would much rather celebrate with someone, than to bear the suffering of another. We are really not that sure that prisoners should be set free, or the poor given hope, or the outcast a seat at the table. Redeemer of all people, including us, grant us your mercy. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, so that our eyes might be opened to see how others truly live. Enlarge our hearts with the gentleness of your touch, so we might embrace the opportunities we will have to serve. Open our ears so we can listen to what Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, teaches us about your love and grace for our lives.**

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon *God's Spirit is upon us: that Spirit of forgiveness, that Spirit of grace, that Spirit of unity with all people.* **Today, and in all the days to come, God's Spirit is with us. Thanks be to the One who is our joy, our strength, our hope.**

Luke 4:14-21 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Continuing the Conversation: David Lose *If you could choose the words that might encapsulate who you are, the only words that would communicate the essence of yourself, your life, your commitments, what would*

they be? When it comes to Luke, these few would be the choice words for Jesus in Luke. Luke 4:14-21 is essentially Jesus' life, ministry, and purpose in a nutshell. As a result, this passage has a critical function located here in the church year. First, as a passage read and heard in the season of Epiphany, it has a major role because of what it reveals about who Jesus is, what Jesus will do, and for whom Jesus has come. We might ask the same question of ourselves, as noted above. What would be the words that could sum you up? How much are you willing to reveal about yourself, to the world, to others, even to yourself? I know it's Jesus, but still, these are bold words. You want to know who I am and why I am here? Well, here you go, and no euphemistic, metaphorical, or figurative hermeneutical gymnastics allowed. What if Jesus really means what he says because it says who he is?"

Last week Mary played an important part in the passage. This week we hear an echo of Mary's song in Jesus' words. David Lose ends his comments on Luke 4 with this reflection: "...what if Jesus first learned what it means to bring good news to the poor from the stories that his mother told him? About Elizabeth, the mother of his cousin John? About Sarah, his ancestor, who experienced the same shame? What if he watched his mother and listened to her and saw her as someone who not only knew the good news proclaimed to her but embodied its presence in her life? If so, this could be a most unique season of Epiphany."

Hymn: May God's love (1and 4) 582

A Response **Before God and God's people, I confess that I have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice I see and declaring God's vision. Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy. Remind me, God, that you have made me for your service and recharge me with your Word. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn: I come with Joy (1-3) 530

Invitation: This is the table, not of the Church, but of God. It is to be made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who

have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because I invite you: it is God's table, and it is God's will that you who want God should meet God here.

Hymn: Jesus the Christ said: 1 and 4 346

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) *As we gather together before your table, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of the bread and the cup, and all who have come to be fed. Just as the bread is broken into many parts, so your grace makes us into one people, our hearts open to serve all in need, our lives offered so that others might be healed. Just as the cup is filled to overflowing with the sweet taste of hope, so our gifts are emptied so that all might be blessed, our joy shared with the despairing of our world. And when you gather us together at the Feast to come, when we sit down at the Table with sisters and brothers, we will bow our heads and worship you forever, Amen*

Hymn: Let us break bread together 548

Communion

Prayer following communion (together)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus the Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: Lord, dismiss us 468
Go now, and live as one body in Christ. Be at peace, and care for one another; Suffer with one another and rejoice with one another. Give your attention to the Word of God and proclaim the good news of freedom to all. **And may God delight our heart and sharpen our vision; May Christ Jesus keep us, thought and word, in divine grace; And may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains us all - and binds us together as one.**