

WELCOME TO...  
The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
March 20, 2016



## The stones will CRY

*“Annie Dillard writes a signature essay in her book by the same name, “Teaching a Stone to Talk”. She describes the futile effort of a neighbour of hers who is trying to do just that. It’s not that the neighbour is possessed of madness, mind you, it’s just that there is this obsession that he has that some day the smooth palm sized oval beach cobble will speak. And so he waits and listens and patiently prepares for that day when the stone will make a sound.”*

*The streets were crowded.*

**A parade mood filled the air.**

*Shouts came from deep in the heart. **Hosanna. Save us.***

*We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls.*

**Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.**

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

718

Prayer of Confession: *Holy one, beloved of God, we rally to your side cheering and waving, caught up in the excitement and the drama of the procession. We join the procession with prophecy and song echoing in our minds: singing of the triumph of God over the enemies who have held us captive. We cry, "Hosanna! Save us!" while believing ourselves saved already. In your mercy, O Christ, forgive us.*

silence

Assurance of Pardon

*The Psalmist says:*

**But I trust in you, O Lord, I say 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.**

*In Christ, God hears; God answers; God sets us free. In Christ we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn: Filled with excitement

215

Prayer of the Day: *Did the stones know?*

**Did the stones know they would soon have to shout**

**‘Hosanna’ because those who had first shouted it would soon be shouting ‘Crucify’?**

*Did Jesus know?*

**Did Jesus know that those who followed in this fickle crowd would soon turn their backs on the only hope they had**

*Did Jesus tell the stones?*

**Did Jesus tell the stones that they would be needed to shout for they alone knew the secret of tombstones**

*Do we know? Do we know when to shout and when to hold silence as the saviour struggles for love and love struggles with him.*

Hymn: Behold the lamb of God

525

❖ **Scripture: Luke 19** As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x530xSkAdk>

"If rocks could talk, they'd have a lot to say. Think of rocks full of fossils, rocks that have layers of dinosaur-era oil and natural gas between them, rocks that have been blown out of volcanoes, rocks that have been washed down creeks and rivers, rocks that have been pushed by glaciers and avalanches--and how about those meteor rocks that have been thrown to the earth from some distant place in the galaxy? Or think about a sparkly cut and polished rock that is attached to a ring, and given by a guy to his favourite gal. Such a precious stone nearly shouts out the question, "Will you marry me?"

What do the stones have to say to us today?

Hymn: Come, children, join to sing

377

**Invitation:** *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. God forgives. God restores. God sets our feet on right paths. God journeys with us, and sees us through to the end and beyond. Come and receive bread for the journey.*

Hymn: Bread of the world in mercy broken

551

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Our Lord God your divine communion is our refuge our shelter our life source. Abiding in your holy communion is where we are changed, transported from our views to your views, moved from our ways to your ways, from blindness to new sight, from hiding to dancing, from darkness to light, and given eyes to see and ears to hear and hands to do and feet to go. Abiding in your holy communion is where we relax with a deep sigh and release. Abiding in your holy communion is where the gifts of God are opened and we glimpse your kingdom come. Where acceptance, courtesy, and gentleness are esteemed. Where we are given courage and extend to others encouragement. Where healing is found as if we are suspended in place and time. Where creativity thrives. Where love is poured out. Where prayer lives. Where stillness flows. And where Peace dwells. Thanks be to you O God for your sweet communion - our greatest delight. Teach us now to pray... Our Father*  
**Communion**

Hymn: Now to Christ

554

**Prayer following communion** *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming to us once again through this simple meal of bread and wine; For nourishing our bodies and our souls; and for filling us with hope as we look forward to the eternal banquet. Amen.*

Hymn: Praise him (vs. 3)

372

*Where Christ walks, **We will follow.** Where Christ rides, : **We will line the way.** Where Christ cries for Jerusalem, **We will cry with him.** There is no other way. **His is the only way.** This is Lent, and through the gates of Jerusalem he goes. **And we must follow.***