

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
April 03, 2016



THE WOUNDED HEALER

Call to Worship: *On this day, which is holy, we gather, not alone, but as Christ's Body; as ones who would suffer together, we gather. On this day of wonder and hope, we gather, not in isolation, but in community; as those who would care for one another, we gather. On this day of prayer and praise, of silence and song, we gather, not with empty hands, or emptier hearts; as those baptized in grace's tears, we gather.*

Hymn: When Jesus the Healer (1-2)

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Prayer of Confession *Wounded Healer, wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, we seek your presence and your peace.*

Wounded Healer, pierced hands and pierced side, come and heal us and restore us to the joy of our salvation – remove the sin and sickness and sorrow that seeks to separate us from your gracious love and let us cry out with Thomas, ‘my Lord and my God!’

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon: *... Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

Hymn: When Jesus the Healer (3-4)

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John 20:19-31 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ***Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but***

believe. "Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Hymn: When Jesus the Healer (5-6)

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A thought: *Hearing impaired people who know sign language have a particular sign for Jesus. The creators of sign language would never have come up with this sign, were it not for the Thomas story in the Bible. The left middle finger touches the right palm, and the right middle finger, in sequence, touches the left palm. No words are necessary. Jesus is the one with wounded hands. Through his wounds and in his vulnerability, we have life. True life....*

A story that forms the basis of 'The Wounded Healer' (Henri Nouwen: *A well known story among the Hebrew people concerns a Rabbi who came across the prophet Elijah and said to him: "Tell me - when will the Messiah come?" Elijah replied, "Go and ask him yourself." "Where is he?" said the Rabbi. "He's sitting at the gates of the city," said Elijah. "But how will I know which one is he?" The Prophet said, "He is sitting among the poor, covered with wounds. The others unbind all their wounds at the same time and bind them up again, but he unbinds only one at a time and binds them up again, saying to himself, "Perhaps I shall be needed; if so, I must always be ready so as not to delay for a moment."*

Henri Nouwen adds, "What I find impressive in this story are these two things: first, the faithful tending of one's own woundedness and second, the willingness to move to the aid of other people and to make the fruits of our own woundedness available to others."

In our own woundedness, we can become a source of life for others.

Hymn: When Jesus the Healer (7-8)

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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, and it is God's will that you who want God should meet God here.

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine

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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) *Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of remembrance and the people who come from the four corners of life. Every time we eat the bread, we are strengthened to take the gifts that nourish our life of faith, to share with all who hunger. Every time we take a sip of the wine of hope, our eyes are opened and we see the marginalized in the shadows and go out to gather them up and bring them to your table.*

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 Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise (1-2)

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Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but ours, no hands, no feet on earth but ours, ours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise (3-4)

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