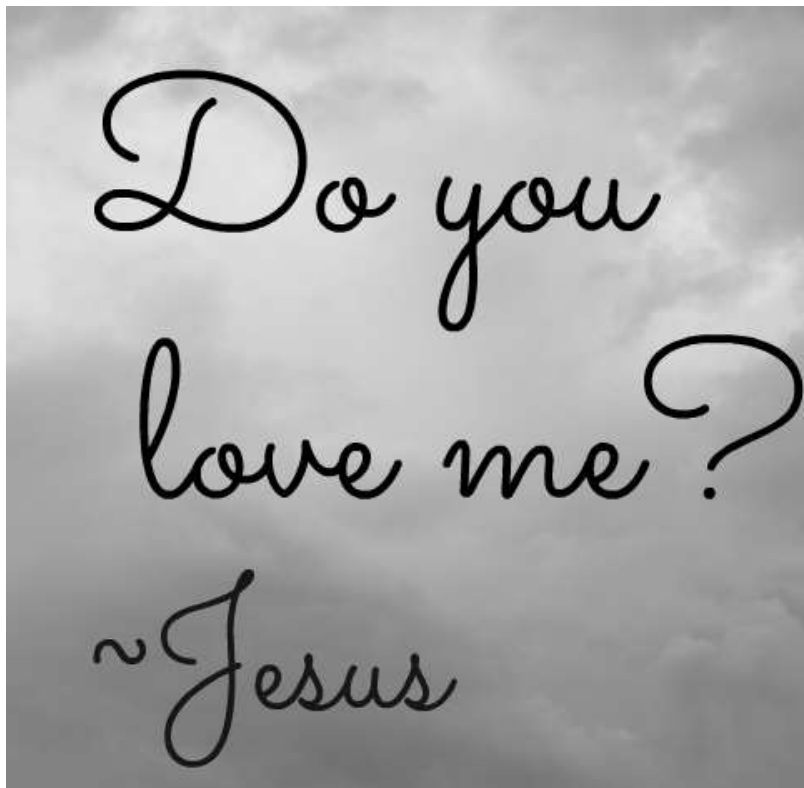


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
April 10, 2016

---

# THE LOVE IMPERATIVE



Call to Worship: *We are here like Peter, tempted to forget the call of Jesus: "I'm going fishing." We're here this morning because of Jesus, who asks us face-to-face: "Do you truly love me?" We gather here to whisper timidly. "Yes, Lord, you know that we love you." We are here as a faith community only because many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell, 'Jesus has been raised!'"*  
Hymn: For all the Love (1-2) 440

Opening Prayer: *O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation.*

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: For all the Love (3-4) 440

John 19 and John 21 *Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.'* **John 21** **When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."**

*<sup>18</sup> Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ... <sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.'* **A second time he said to him, "Simon**

**son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."**

*<sup>26</sup> One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?'* <sup>27</sup> *Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.*

Hymn: For all the Love (5-6) 440

A Reflection: John Wamboldt

**Frank L. Crouch:** "Peter's return to his previous life will be radically transformed. His fishing expedition becomes a new experience of abundance, mirroring Cana's 120-180 gallons of wine (2:1-11) and the twelve baskets of food left over at the feeding of the 5,000 (6:1-14). The nets that had been empty when used under the disciples' own power are filled almost to bursting with a word from the risen Christ, who then prepares them a meal (verses. 3-13). This "last breakfast" once again transforms a moment of deprivation and insufficiency into a feast, with unexpected blessing made available for all..."

Love is as love does. This is love as courage, love as risk, love as not wavering, regardless of what we are called to do. Christ calls Peter and us, as individuals and as communities of faith, to follow him even where we would not otherwise go, even where we might not want to go. The times in which we live are no time for "we have never done it that way before," no time for returning to what we are used to. These times, more than ever, are times that call for the best love of God, friends, neighbors, and enemies that we can muster. Or, better yet, these times cry out for the love to which God calls us and that God will bring to life within us for the sake of others.

Hymn: I'll Love the Lord 573

**Invitation:** *When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials it was Easter day. When the disciples looked from afar at a breakfast of fish on the beach it was Easter day. When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome and the breaking of bread with strangers it was Easter day. When Paul was blinded by the light and recognised the voice niggling in his head it was Easter day. When the hungry are fed at the table the same table as the rich it is Easter day. When the stranger is welcomed in community and the lonely are restored to relationship it is Easter day...*

Hymn: Come now you blessed, eat at my table 724  
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. Now we retire within ourselves and silent answer for ourselves: Do I long to be led by God's Love, in my love and labour, in my life and death, and to remain faithful to God's will? Do I long to open up to the gift of God, to partake in the communion of Jesus and to enter into his spirit? In the spirit of Jesus we continue in prayer, Our Father...*

### Communion

Hymn: What wondrous love is this (vs. 1) 242  
**Following communion** *Christ asks if we love him? If we say yes, he says; "Then care for one another." This is our opportunity to make a difference, to live lovingly on the frontiers of his coming reign.*

Hymn: Lord, whose love (1-2) 722  
*May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing. May Christ, who looks upon us with deepest love, bless our eyes and widen our gaze. May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless your eyes and sharpen your vision. May the Sacred Three bless our eyes and cause us to see.* ~adapted from *In the Sanctuary of Women*, copyright © Jan L. Richardson  
Hymn: Lord, whose love (3-4) 722

Mission Awareness Sunday April 17

Anniversary Sunday April 24

Human Sexuality Study April 19<sup>th</sup> (6:30) and April 23 (10 am)