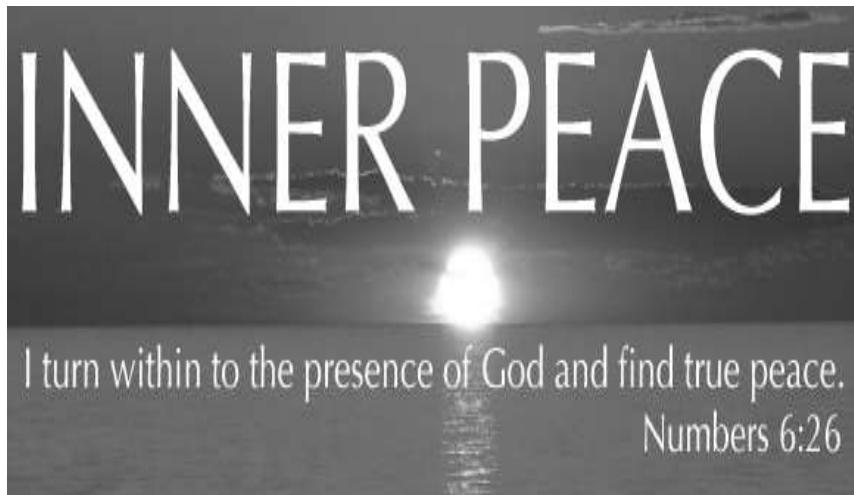


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of

Saint David

May 01, 2016



Prelude

Call to Worship: *In the name of God, who created us, who holds us and the whole world in his hands. In the name of the Son who came into the world, who reconciles us with God. In the name of the Holy Spirit who fills us with eternal life, who links us with all Christians and incites us to peace, we come together to offer our thanks and praise.*

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (1-3) 739

Opening Prayer: *Open our eyes,*
that we who seek to follow you may recognize your face
in the faces of those who are enslaved.

Open our ears,
that we who seek to hear your word may recognize your love
in the stories which are often drowned out.

Open our hearts,
that we who seek your way of life may be bold in witnessing
to your longing for justice and peace. Amen

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (4-5) 739

Confession: *You bring peace, peace to the tensions and conflicts within us*
To the regrets, the failure, the broken relationships, the lost friendships. *You bring peace for you are a friend to us when we are alone, when we are lonely, unseen you are there. You bring us peace and we pray that we may share the peace of Christ with all we meet.*

John 14:23-29 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Hymn: Dona nobis pacem (3x) 735

Context: "Peace is just what it feels like we're missing right now. Peace, after all, would mean the cessation of all this conflict, the end of all this turmoil, the conclusion of all our waiting and

wanting and worrying. Right?

I wonder. I mean, I've usually thought of peace as the absence of something negative -- the absence of war, or strife, or fear, or anger. And, indeed, the first definition in the dictionary corroborates this view: "peace: freedom from disturbance." But it occurs to me on reading and re-reading Jesus' words to the disciples that maybe I've got it wrong. Maybe peace isn't an absence of something, but instead is its own presence. Maybe peace *is* something, all on its own. Maybe it creates something positive, makes something wonderful possible, not just curtails something negative. Maybe this is what Jesus means by saying, "My peace I give to you. I do not give it as the world gives." If that's so -- if I'm willing, that is, to question the way I usually think about peace -- then maybe I should also call into question my sense of faith more generally. I think I tend to operate with a sense that our human problem is that we have within us a need, an awareness of our lack, a restlessness, a hole. You know, Augustine's "My heart is restless, O God, until it rests in thee." Actually, I think that's pretty accurate. But I suspect that along with that picture of our human condition comes a correlate picture of how God responds: God fills that hole, meets that need, fills in what we lack. Okay, so bear with me, I know this is a little complicated. In one sense, I think that's true. But I'm just not sure that means that once we come to faith everything is suddenly hunky-dory, that we're no longer aware of our need or lack or hurt or brokenness. Or, at least if I'm honest, that's not how I actually experience the life of faith." (David Lose from Working Preacher)

Our Response

Dear God, we hear of peace only as a dream; a dream we would love to be part of, a dream we long to have in our hearts, in our neighborhoods, in our countries, and even in our churches.

We pray this morning, God of peace, that we may experience that peace that passes all understanding, we pray, O God, that we may experience you, the Peace of the world.

Invitation: *In the name of Jesus Christ I invite all to his table with reverence, faith, and thanksgiving. Eat and drink for your strengthening that you may grow in grace and be blessed with all spiritual blessings. We do so remembering that we, although many, are one body in him.*

Hymn: You satisfy the hungry heart (1-3) **538**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Rejoice in the Lord always. Shout out his name. For God is with us. Our God is with us... the God who turns us around and offers us new life. 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 gather. Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and what we do here that these your gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may bring life, hope, and love to all your world.*

Hymn: You satisfy the hungry heart (4-5) **538**

Communion

Following communion *We thank you gracious and generous God for the cup of salvation, for the bread of life. Filled with your gifts may we go out and walk the path of peace and promise to the glory of the name of Jesus.*

Hymn: Go now in peace **622**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. May the word of Christ richly dwell within us. Amen

Postlude

