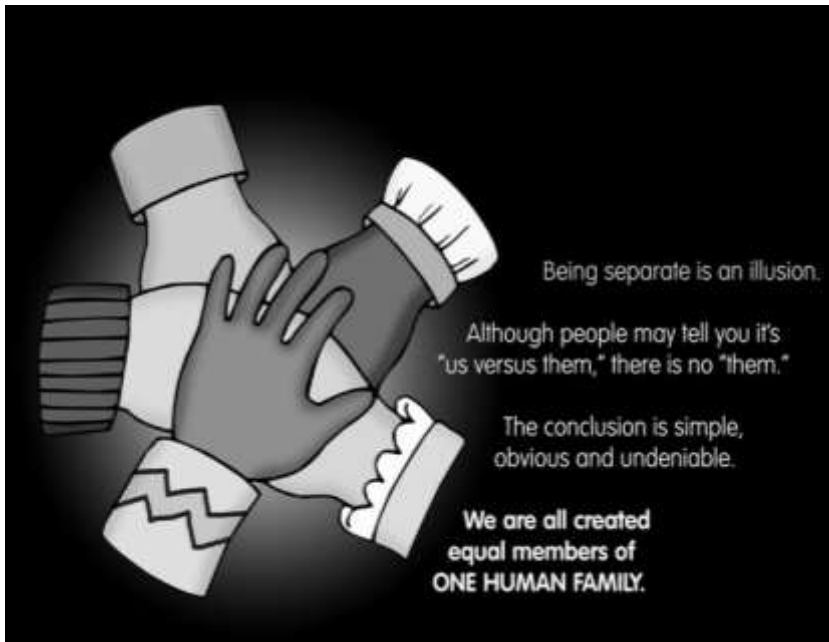


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

May 08, 2016



An old rabbi once asked his students how one could recognize the time when night ends and day begins. "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a dog from a sheep?" one student asked. "No," said the rabbi. "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a date palm from a fig tree?" another student asked. "No," said the rabbi. "When is it?" the students asked. "It is when you look into the face of any human creature and see your brother or your sister there. Until then, night is still with us."

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: Called as Partners (1-2)

587

Opening Prayer:

Lover of diversity, God of all souls, continue to give us the grace to treasure each other with all our oddness and to use these differences as we minister to the diversity of people who share this twenty first century with us. To your praise and glory. Amen!

- written by Bruce Prewer

Hymn: Called as Partners (3-4)

587

Confession:

Merciful God, you made us in your own image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day we fail to grow into your likeness; yet you are slow to be angry with your children. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, do not hold our sins against us, but in your tender love, forgive. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Galatians 3: 26-29 ... for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. (read three times in the style of Lectio Divina)

Hymn: When we are living

630

Context: "To know the truth of oneness, to long for unity is painful. It is tempting to retreat to our cliques of people who are

just like us, where we can be safe and comfortable. But Gal 3:28 compels us to be together, to live as one with those who are most radically different from us, even those we believe to be most distant from God's embrace. Living that oneness in Christ is not just doing what is politically correct, nor is it practicing the non-discrimination that the law requires; rather, it is to have a change of heart. Living that oneness means confessing that we are sometimes the barrier builders and the weapon wielders. It sometimes means allowing ourselves to get close to those who are most difficult for us to love. It sometimes means bearing the consequences of the pain of those who were relegated to the outside. It sometimes means listening and listening and waiting and waiting until trust can be restored. It means entering into the hard work of reconciliation... *If we were to allow ourselves to feel Christ's own longing for unity, Christ's own aching over our separations and divisions, what difference would it make in the way we behave toward one another in the church?"*

(Louise Williams)

Our Response

'The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all social, religious, ethical and moral traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.'

The Christian Century Magazine writer E. Louise Williams writes: The message comes through loud and clear in Luke. The family of God includes outsiders – those there because of accidents of birth like the gentile centurion and his sick servant; those there because of the circumstances of their lives like the bereft widow; even those there because of choices they have made, like the criminal on the cross next to Jesus. They all belong to the reign of God that Jesus ushers in. Compassion doesn't give up but keeps translating and retranslating the message until all can hear in their own language and know that they belong...

God gives us birth, looks on us with compassion and sees the family resemblance. God also empowers us to look with the same eyes on one another."

(From Reflections on the Lectionary, in Christian Century, May 29, 2013, p. 21)

Hymn: One Bread, One body (verse 1) **540**

Invitation: *Come in, come in and sit down - you are a part of the family. The table is now prepared for us - we all have a place at the family table. We are invited to share in the feast of God's presence, celebrating here and now all that is meant by being alive. The Spirit of God moves in every corner of the world in every age and through all time, calling people to renew their hope and joy at this table.*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (1-2) **528**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.* (we continue in prayer) *Send your Holy Spirit on us and these your gifts of bread and cup, that we may know Christ's presence, real and true, and be his faithful followers, showing your love for the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Bless us in order that we may be a blessing to your world. Your Spirit calls us now, in this place, to gather all people into our celebration, For in Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, we are one in the Body of Christ*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (3-4) **528**

Communion

Following communion *We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen*

Hymn: Go now in peace **622**

Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen

Postlude