

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of **Saint David**

June 5th, 2016



Prelude

Call to Worship: *Strangers meet. Oil and grain turn to bread. The sick are healed. The weary are lifted up. The hurting find compassion. The prisoners are set free. The everyday becomes a miracle. This is God's work. We are its witnesses. Let us worship God*

Hymn: God whose giving (1-2) **663**

Opening Prayer: *Lord of compassion, mercy and justice, Many have come to you seeking compassion and you have graciously shown it to them.*

**We too come seeking your compassion
For our needs, our pains, our illnesses,
For our friends, families, and coworkers,**

For our neighbors, our communities, and our world.

Lord we all need you to shower us with your compassion

Hymn: God whose giving (3)

663

Confession: *Because we trust in God's faithfulness, we are free to make our confession to God and call for his compassion. Let us, therefore, confess our sins that we may be renewed in his grace. Turn your ears our way, God, and listen. Open your eyes and take a long look at us. We know that we don't deserve a hearing from you. Our appeal is to your compassion. This prayer is our last and only hope: Lord, listen to us! Lord, forgive us! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: When long before time (1-3)

295

Lord of love and light, shine into our lives and bring your love into our souls. Remind us of the amazing ways you have loved us, even when we turned our backs on you. Open our hearts to receive your loving spirit. Open our minds to receive your wisdom. Open our hands to show others your loving compassion. Lord of love and light, we hold in our hearts those around us who feel unloved. We bring them to you for you to shine your love into their lives. We hold in our minds those who overwhelmed by their needs and difficulties. We hold in our hands your loving compassion to give them. Lord of love and light, there are people and places that are dark and in the dark about your love. Shine forth your light and love in their lives and in those places. There are people and places that have closed their minds to you, to others, to new and fresh ideas. Shine forth your light and love to open their minds to you, to others, to new and fresh ideas. ~ adapted from Rev Abi

Luke 7:11-17 Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers

stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

The story of the revival of the widow's son at Nain is a confirmation of God's faithfulness, it is a confirmation of the compassionate heart of Jesus, and it is a confirmation of the Gospel call to prioritize compassion in all of our dealings. Taken just on the heels of the story of the centurion's slave, it shows that our God honors the promises, people, values of the past while at the same time pushes the boundaries in radical ways. What is important to remember above all of this is that the central operating force in both stories is Jesus' own compassion, and it is good news indeed that his compassion is for everyone, whether male or female, slave or free, Jew or Gentile, living or dead. Thanks be to God! (Rev. Caleb Tabor)

A. *Grace is often encountered in surprising places; amidst people who we might consider strangers and even enemies or in moments of tumultuous moments of life, like a funeral procession. Where or when have you encountered a glimpse of God's grace in place or time that was unexpected?*

B. *God's grace is at work in people who are not part of the community of faith.*

Where do you see God's grace at work in peoples who are not Christian?

C. *God's grace is worked through people who are not necessarily part of the community of faith. Who outside the church has challenged you to grow in your faith?*

D. *God's compassion for those who are suffering comes without condition. Who is God calling you to help without condition?*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It right to give our thanks and praise.

God, you are before all things;

You are beyond all things;

*And in the midst of all things and all peoples
you have made yourself known.*

*In Israel's ancient codes and prophetic oracles,
in stories of women and men,
of communities and nations
seeking identity,
feeling their strength,
and struggling with their weakness
you have made yourself known.*

*In Jesus of Nazareth,
in compassion for the outcast,
forgiveness for the fallen,
hope for the poor and hungry;
in his life poured out for others
and broken in rejection and disdain
you have made yourself known.*

*Therefore we join our praises
with countless men and women before us,
disciples and apostles,
saints and martyrs,
acclaiming your power in goodness
and your might in compassion,
as we say/ sing:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We greet the one who comes in your name,

*your true light, your true love,
the bread of compassion,
the wine of renewal.*

*As he broke bread before the brokenness of his death,
as he poured out wine before his blood was poured out on the cross,
as he gave his life in acts of goodness,
as he invited all to the feast of new hope,
so come to us, God of Jesus, in your love.*

*Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love,
and let the bread and wine before us
bear your life to our life,
nourish us with his vision of hope,
and unite us in one body of peace.*

*Nourish us with your brokenness,
Renew us with your poured out life,
Empower us with your powerlessness,
that we may take root in your risen life
and bear fruit in your world.*

***You are our life;
You are our hope;
You are our peace;
And we praise you.***

Jesus you took bread and broke it,
You shared it with your friends.
As you were broken to feed us with the bread of life.
Jesus you took wine and poured it out,
Grapes crushed and drained of life.
As you were crushed and drained of your life blood.
Jesus you prayed fervently in agony of spirit,
That God's cup of suffering might pass away.
Your sweat fell like drops of blood yet you endured the pain.
You hung upon a tree and were crucified for us,
But looked in compassion on your murderers.
**Look too in compassion
on we who caused your suffering and your death.**
Jesus you died for us and fell as a seed into the ground,

Knowing that your death would produce a plentiful harvest of new life.
**May we too be willing to die to ourselves
that others may find true and eternal life.**

Invitation: *Our compassionate and merciful God does not leave us in our
brokenness, sin and sorrow but takes us to the table of healing and wholeness.*
All are invited and all are welcome. *Come, for the meal is ready!*

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine (1-2) **546**
Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord be with you. And also with you.*
*Lift up your hearts. We lift them 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) *Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love, and let the
bread and wine before us bear your life to our life, nourish us with his vision of
hope, and unite us in one body of peace. Nourish us with your
brokenness, Renew us with your poured out life, Empower
us with your powerlessness, that we may take root in your
risen life and bear fruit in your world. You are our life; You are
our hope; You are our peace; And we praise you.*

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine (3) **546**
Communion

Following communion *Loving and compassionate God you give us all
we need in an abundance and nourish us mind, body and spirit. Send us
now into the world to proclaim your love, forgiveness and
compassion to all.*

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise (1,
3-4) **556**

*Go in peace; love and care for one another in
Christ's name, and may God bless you with every
gift needful. May the Spirit grant us the
willingness to risk ourselves completely
for the sake of the gospel. May the love and
the compassion and the hope and the faith of Jesus
dwell richly within you till the time of his coming,
both now and forevermore. Amen*

Postlude

