

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of

Saint David

September 04th, 2016

Prelude

I KNOW YOU

YOU KNOW ME?



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)

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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)

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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)

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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

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them - they are more than the sand; I come to the end - I am still with you.*

Comments: “I’ve been searched before. I go to board a plane. A big, frowning man in a uniform barks at me, “Drop your bag, sir.” He unzips my suitcase, rummaging/ransacking through my most personal things. I’m not hiding anything, but still I’m almost afraid he’ll find something. He grunts at me to “take your shoes off.” I hop up and down in my socks, trying to remove my shoes while still standing and retaining some sense of dignity. I walk cautiously through a narrow gate and a beep goes off. The uniformed man slowly shakes his head. My belt is stripped off, shirttail pulled up out of my pants. I turn my pockets inside out. The beep goes off again. A woman with a badge pulls me aside, tells me, “Lean over and stretch out your arms, sir.” She frisks me to the point where I think she gets to second base. She finds nothing and seems a little disappointed -- then grunts at me to move on. I am disheveled, I am rattled, I feel a little violated - I have been searched. How fearful a thing to be searched and known by God... It is a fearful thing to be known by God. We do not want to be known, but this searching, all-knowing God won’t leave us alone. This God will not go away. We tried to kill him, and even that wouldn’t work. Jesus just came back and said, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” and you wonder

sometimes with the psalmist whether that is a promise or a threat. Post-Easter, “Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”
Jeremy Troxler

The God who knows me (vv. 1-6)

The theological term for God’s knowledge is his omniscience. To put it into one sentence, God knows all things actual and possible. He knows how many blades of grass there are as well as how many people there are. As far as each one of us is concerned, he knows every single thing about us. As David indicates, the Lord knows our behaviour in public and private and he knows our thoughts and our words. Moreover he has always known everything about us and always will.

The God who is with me (vv. 7-12) Here is God’s omnipresence.

David tells us that there is nowhere he can go and be separate from God. If he ascends to the stars or goes down to the grave, God is there. Even if he travels beyond where anyone has gone before, God will be there. So we can see that David is sure about the presence of God. This is a wonderful certainty to have as we make our way through life.

The God who made me (vv. 13-18) Here is God’s omnipotence.

David now turns to think about what God did for him before he was born. He thinks about how he was put together in his mother’s womb. No one could see what God was doing for him then. In a real sense, there was just him and God, and it was obvious that David at that time was not contributing anything to the process.

Invitation: *God knows us better than we know ourselves and this God invites us to the banqueting table and his banner over us is love. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!*

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine (1-2)

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 feed us and restore us. We give thanks for your gifts of grace, and ask that your Holy Spirit would come to bless this sacrament, that we might live with you and you in us. 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 *We give you thanks, O God, that you have blessed us at this table, as you bless us at all our tables. May our eating and drinking together be a sign of your kingdom as we go forth in your name to love and serve the world. Amen.*

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

Sending: This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Postlude