

# WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of

# Saint David

November 13, 2016 The Sunday After



Call to Worship: *We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world, and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life. We gather here as people who live in the world and yet, we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint. God has called us together; God has called us to be part of a community. God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world*

Prayer: *By our labour, you enrich the world. By our labour, we enjoy the fruits of creation. By our labour, we find direction and purpose. By our labour, our families are made secure. For providing varieties of work and for blessing us by our labour: We give you thanks, O Lord.*

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit (1-2)

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Prayer: *May all your expectations be frustrated; may all your plans be thwarted; may all your desires be withered into nothingness, that we may experience the powerlessness and poverty of a child, and sing, dance, and trust in the love of God who is Creator, Christ, and Spirit. (~ adapted from Brennan Manning)*

*Maybe in this there is a glimpse of the kingdom a foretaste a hint a promise.*

*Let it hold you and let it send you so you will never be at peace...*

**until all are fed - until all know home - until all are free -**

**until justice is done - until peace is the way - until grace is the law - until**

**love is the rule - until God's realm comes - until God's realm comes -**

*until God's realm comes...*

Confession: *God of Grace, you call us to be different from the world, but the world is seductive, and so we come here to be strengthened. God of Vision, you hold before us an alternate way of life, different priorities, different loyalties, different values than our political and economic systems. But we know that the world is not only seductive but powerful, and so we are drawn in to following its priorities, accepting its values, showing loyalty to its gods. God who blesses the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, forgive us when we lose sight of these qualities, when we misunderstand their role in the world.*

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit (3-4)

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**2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Warning against Idleness** <sup>6</sup> Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we

gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

<sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Hymn: When the poor ones (1-2)

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We heard much in the days before the US election about building walls to keep out undesirables – In the movie *A Day without a Mexican*, director Sergio Arau creates a situation in which every Hispanic in the state of California disappears over the span of a few hours. Suddenly there is no one to pick the fruit and vegetables in the fields, 60% of the construction workers are gone along with teachers and professionals - the restaurants and schools have to close, and chaos reigns supreme. Companies are forced to file bankruptcy, the economy slumps, and even many (not all) bigots come to realize the important role that Latinos play in their lives. The message of the movie is simple: Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, Guatemalans, Puerto Ricans-people of Hispanic descent are an important part of the community. They contribute much more than they take out (according to the movie, Hispanics contribute \$100 billion to the California economy and only take out \$3 billion in government services), and life wouldn't be the same without them. The message of the movie can be applied to other groups as well, including the poor, whether white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or Aboriginal. Right-wing talk show hosts like to blame all the problems of America on the poor, especially if they also happen to be immigrants (legal or illegal) or minorities. "They're lazy, they just want to be on welfare, they use government services but don't pay any taxes." These are all complaints of right-wing zealots and their ditto-heads, but they're just plain wrong. Paul tells the Thessalonian Christians to beware of those who are idle, but he is not talking about the poor. On the contrary, the poor had to work just to stay alive in that society. Those Paul describes as unwilling to work may be those whose ideas about the end times are erroneous (as Paul discusses earlier in the letter), or they may be people who claim to be spiritual teachers or prophets (as the immediate context suggests). Oh, I forgot to tell you, the movie is a comedy! (adapted from: Saturday Night Theologian)

Hymn: When the poor ones (3-4)

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**Invitation:** *Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible. God's beloved, come to the Table of grace. We will feast on the wonders of the God who loves us. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!*

Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my life (1-2)

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Prayer of Thanksgiving: *God, you are with us. You are always with us. May we open our hearts. May we know your presence. In thanksgiving, And in deepest honour. With people of every nation, tribe and language, with the whole Church throughout the ages, we bring ourselves: all that we are, and all that we are not, joyfully giving thanks and singing:* (Sanctus 426-sung) (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. Renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord You are our life; You are our hope; You are our peace; And we praise you.*

Hymn: Glory to God

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### Communion

**Following communion** *Eternal, loving God, we thank you for this simple common meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts, and brings us closer to you. May our lives be inspired by your love, and may your love touch others through us.*

Hymn: When we are living (1,3-4)

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*Come to me all you who labour and are heavily burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden light.*

Hymn: May the God of hope

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*Postlude*