



WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian
Church of

Saint David

November 27, 2016 Advent 1

"Waiting is a period of learning.
The longer we wait, the more we
hear about him for whom we are
waiting."

Henri Nouwen

Gathering: *As Sarah waited...Ninety years for a son to fulfil God's promise. **We wait in hope for what we thought had been spoken to us.** As Moses waited...40 years in the desert, being prepared by God to lead his people. **We wait for emptiness and humility; for bravado to wither.** As Israel waited...40 years of wandering, hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure. **We wait for the right time to act.** As the Prophets waited...1000 years of promises that God would raise up a Saviour. **We wait for the signs that God has not forgotten.** As Mary waited...9 months of her 14 years for the child of God. **We feel the birth-pains, yet fear for the child.** As John the Baptist waited...Scanning the crowds for the one whose sandals he would not be worthy to untie. **We long for an experience of the Divine.** As*

Jesus waited... 30 years of creeping time. 40 days in the desert of temptation. 3 years of misunderstanding. 3 days in the depths of hell. So we wait for God's time. Preparing the way. Our turn to toil on levelling mountains and straightening paths. Our turn to watch the horizon. Our turn to pass on the hope that He who promised is faithful and will come back.

Hymn: I waited

24

Prayer: *I wait. I wait for you to answer. I wait for the first light of dawn. I wait for you. I wait for you. I wait for you. I wait. My waiting is my prayer. In the pain of the waiting I feel my longing for you. I long for you to be here. I wait for your arrival, you who has always been here. In the waiting I know a larger space in my soul is being excavated. I can feel the growing emptiness. But I know that it will be filled with your gracious, loving presence. Make me ready to receive you. I wait.*

Hymn: I waited for the Lord my God (1-2)

23

A moment to Meditate: *Be silent Be still Alone Empty Before your God Say nothing Ask nothing Be silent Be still Let your God look upon you That is all God knows God understands God loves you with an enormous love God only wants to look upon you with divine love.*

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. 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: I waited for the Lord my God (3-4)

23

Matthew 24:36-44 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and

drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (Luke 7:20)

Hymn: Those who wait on the Lord **662**

Henry Nouwen shows us the way to a life of active waiting with a sense of promise that is based on hope and trust in God. Henri teaches us what it means to actively wait, encourages us to wait in community, and shows us that in our waiting we must be willing “to be handed over” as Jesus was. And we learn that just as we are waiting on God to define our lives, God is waiting on us to choose to follow him. “God became human not only to act among us but also to be the recipient of our responses.” (p 110, The Path of Waiting)

1. Henri writes, “**A waiting person is someone who is present to the moment, believing that this moment is *the* moment... Patient living means to live actively in the present and wait there.**” (p 97)

a) Have you experienced the active waiting and patient living Henri describes in your life? What was the result?

Invitation:
*welcome... to
actions beyond
words, to help*



*without asking, to provision without measure, to hospitality without price, to risk without fear. God's beloved, you who are watching and waiting, 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. We come, for the meal is ready!***

Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my life (1-2) **565**

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: Come my way, my truth, my life (3) **565**
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: Live in Charity **501**

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.
Psalm 40:1

Postlude