

WELCOME TO

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

December 04, 2016 Advent 2



Gathering:

In the day of Jubilee, Our God brings justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

In the day of Jubilee, Our God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

In the day of Jubilee, Our God lifts up those who are bowed down and watches over strangers and widows and orphans.

In the day of Jubilee, all creation reaps a rich harvest of peace.

Hymn: Hark the glad sound (1-3)

118

Our attitude as we watch and wait:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls us is faithful, and he will do this.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Confession: We come to you confessing what is on our hearts and minds. We do so trusting that you want to hear our petitions and that you have already forgiven what needs to be forgiven. We believe that our prayers will be answered in your time and in your almighty wisdom. Amen.

Hymn: Hark the glad sound (4)

118

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

A time of Reflection: The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping

The Response of the community

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Come now you blessed, eat at my table

724

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God who offers good new be with you! And also with you! People of God, lift your hearts to the One who rescues and liberates you. We offer them to God, who writes words of hope upon our hearts.

You took creation by the hand,
leading it out of chaos,
as the first morning dawned,
mountains trembling in the mist,
running rivers which gladdened your heart,
God of our lives.

You created all this for us,
giving us peace and righteousness
to be our playmates in the fields of grace.

But when we beheld the works
of temptation, sin, and death,
we became their slaves,
writing their lies on our hearts.

Longing to be our God,
you sent the prophets
to call us to be your people,
but we refused to listen.

Finally, Jesus came, the bearer
of truth and freedom for all.

With those whose hearts are broken,
and those who long for your days of peace,
we sing our thanksgiving to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who forms our hearts.
All creation finds refuge in your tender care.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who sets us free by your truth!
Hosanna in the highest!**

You are our strength, God of holiness,
and Jesus Christ is your Son, our Saviour.
When our lives are filled with despair,
he is our Hope;

when we are lost and cannot find our way,
he is our Help;
when the world closes its doors and heart to us,
he is our Refuge;
when sin and death hunger for us,
he is our Redeemer,
present with us in this life
and in the one to come.

As we remember his life, death, and resurrection,
as he continues to re-form us into your people,
we proclaim that mystery called faith:

**Christ died, his heart broken for us;
Christ was raised, resurrection written upon his heart;
Christ is ever with us, in every moment, until your days
come.**

Pour out your Spirit
upon the gifts of this Table,
and upon the gathered people
who seek to be your faithful people.
The bread symbolizes that Life, though given,
which can reshape our brokenness into
the peace which a warring world needs,
the hope which can bring healing to others.
The cup which is filled with your grace
can strengthen us to be new people,
who go forth to speak truth to power,
who bring freedom to all the oppressed.

And when your days of eternity finally come,
when we gather as your children around
the Table of wonder and life,
we will sing your praises forever and ever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Invitation: *We are on a journey to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the
empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the
rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are*

*generously fed. We are on a journey to Bethlehem where love is
incarnate and all are welcome*

Hymn: Come thou long-expected Jesus (1) 110

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *May God who offers good new be with you! And
also with you! People of God, lift your hearts to the One who rescues and
liberates you. We offer them to God, who writes words of hope
upon our hearts.* (we continue in prayer) *Pour out your Spirit upon
the gifts of this Table, and upon the gathered people who seek to be your
faithful people. 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 thou long-expected Jesus (2) 110

Communion

Following communion *Eternal, loving God, we thank you for this
simple common meal that offers us the joy of the Lord as our strength. May
our lives be inspired by your love, and may your love touch
others through us.*

Hymn: Lord, O Lord our God 713
Postlude

