

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
January 08, 2017



Gathering: *The heavens open. The Spirit descends. Jesus emerges from the water. And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.*
"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased." *Jesus is named. Claimed. We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed. Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed. Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.*

Hymn: Christ, whose glory fills the skies

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Confessional Prayers *We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.*

Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviours that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance: *The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: What was your vow and vision? 1-2

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Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Hymn: What was your vow and vision? 3

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How does the Word function in the text? This brief text is complex in that the Triune God is present and all three Persons are active. To answer the question of how the Word is functioning we usually seek to understand what God or Jesus or the Spirit is doing or saying. Here God is saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This is an announcement of the identity of Christ - a gospel function. Jesus also is speaking, as well

as being acted upon, and his announcement is that his baptism will "fulfill all righteousness." This is also a gospel function. Finally, the Spirit is active in alighting on Jesus following the baptism in the form of a dove, identifying him as the Beloved Son, again a gospel function. In each case, the Word functions to announce the good news that Jesus is the Beloved Son of God who comes to fulfill all righteousness.

With whom are you identifying in the text? We know that it is always important to identify with the people whom are addressed by the Word, not with Jesus or God or the Word itself. In this case, the Word is speaking to those who witness this baptism - and by way of the scriptures to us who now hear or read this Word.

We are the ones to whom God is speaking when the voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

- **What have you done as a result of your new life in Christ?**
- **How has Jesus led you to use your talents and gifts for righteous actions?**
- **What has been joyful for you on this journey?**

Pastoral Prayer: John Wamboldt

Invitation: *We come to the table - all of us welcome. We invite God to be part of us - all of us breaking bread together. We prepare to remember Jesus - all of us touched by the Spirit of truth. We hope to be empowered by our feast - all of us with the glorious light of Christ shining in us.*

Hymn: Lead Us 647

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(concludes with...)* Remembering your grace toward us, we take this bread and wine from among the gifts of your creation as signs of your saving help to us in Jesus Christ. **We offer ourselves as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to proclaim the dying, rising, coming Christ.** *Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon your gift*

*of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may truly be his body in the world for which he lived and died and still lives. **By your Spirit, unite us both with the living Christ and with all your people everywhere.** We pray that together we may offer the compassion and forgiveness and healing and hope that have come to us through him. **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Come, Holy Spirit, come! Bless our food, and bless our drink. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, and in each other. Amen***

Hymn: Let us break bread together 548

Communion

Prayer following communion: *We devote ourselves to you by renewing the baptismal covenant - the promise you made to humanity so long ago. Because you are our God, we will be your people. Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal. Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.*

Hymn: Praise our Maker peoples of one family 700

May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage, to bring new things to all creation: may this path run through our life. May we be the road Christ takes.