

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David



February 12, 2017

EARLY SERVICE – 9 AM

Hymn: Teach me O God your way of truth (1-3) 80
Gathering: *Discerning God, help me consider this day how I live my life and how I choose the direction I take. Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say 'Yes, yes' and 'No, no' at the same time?* 2 Corinthians 1:17.

Discriminating God, help me understand how crucial are the words I speak to others as I seek relationships in my life. "Let your 'Yes' be your yes and your 'No,' no, or you will be condemned" James 5:12
Disturbing God, help me find clarity in my relationship with you, with others, and maybe especially with myself. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No': anything more than this comes from the evil one.
Matthew 5: 37

Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my life (vs.1) 635

Opening Prayers *You invite us to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we are called: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, Lord, have mercy. You invite us to lead a life worthy of our calling, a life filled with service and sacrifice. We come to be Christ's Body on earth, weak and weary though we are. Christ have mercy. God, help us lead a life which reflects your calling so that we can say 'God has become my strength', we would share the grace offered to us. Lord have mercy. Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called. We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.*

Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my life (vs.2) 635

Confession and contemplation: *Loving God, you call us into community, teach us your ways, and bless us with abundant life. Yet we turn aside to follow other paths: we take the easy way out, listening to the world's call rather than your call to commitment; we quarrel with one another, letting differences divide us; we cherish our resentments, shutting off our hearts from forgiveness and reconciliation; we cling to petty jealousies, feeling we deserve more than we have. Forgive us when we wander from your love. Draw us into community with each other, and feed us with the gift of your grace, that we may grow in faithfulness and work together in peace. Amen.*

Words of Assurance: *God is at work, nurturing our growth and showing us the ways that lead to life through the decisions we make. God is at work, reconciling us to one another and teaching us the paths of love. God is at work, bearing our confessions, forgiving our disobedience, and blessing us in love. Thanks be to God!*

Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my life (vs.3)

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Matthew 5: Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. *Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.*

Jesus gives a new way to look at old rules and regulations – a way that fulfills them and offers the promise of a fuller life.

Haddon Robinson (*The Christian Salt & Light Company* [Discovery House Publishing], p. 156) says with regard to the Sermon on the Mount, "If anger was the real issue of murder, lust the real issue of adultery, selfishness the real issue of divorce, then deceit is the real issue of oaths." He adds (p. 158), "Jesus wasn't addressing whether or not we should take an oath. He was talking about whether or not we are truthful... We don't tell the truth because we have taken an oath; we tell the truth because we are truthful."

- Is it difficult for you to make and stick to decisions? If so, why?
- In what ways might God help you make a decision?
- Discuss a time when you made a decision that you believed was God-led. How did that decision turn out?

Invitation:

William Barclay (The Daily Study Bible, Matthew [Westminster Press], 1:160) sums up Jesus' words in Matthew 5:33-37: Here is a great eternal truth. Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved and in others of which he is not involved; there cannot be one kind of language in the Church and another kind of language in the shipyard or factory or the office; there cannot be one kind of standard of conduct in the Church and another kind of standard in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life, and kept out of others. He is everywhere, all through life and every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in his name; he hears all words; and there cannot be any such thing as a form of words which evades bringing God into a transaction. We will regard all promises as sacred, if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God.

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (1-2) **528**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother (Continue in prayer) By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honour and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. (Our Father...)*

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (3-4) **528**
Communion

Prayer following communion: *Generous God, with these hands you give us, we have held gifts for you. With these arms you give us, we stretch to gather in the lost and alone. With these eyes you give us, we see opportunities to share your good news. With these hearts you give us, we pray for strength and healing for others. You have*

given us what we need to be your disciples; we give to you all that we are to praise your name. Use these gifts and your people to spread the saving love of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing 775

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ.

And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 1:20). God has placed before you life and death, blessings and curses. Therefore choose life, follow God's way. Go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" "no". And in all the paths you walk may God hold you steady and close. May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter. And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life. **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord ... in the name of Christ. Amen.**