

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. Oh Lord, we thank you that you call us to go to the mountain top with you We follow, not quite sure of what is to happen, but we like mountain tops, we like the view from up here, we like mountain top experiences. Sometimes mountaintop experiences are found around a table. Lord, may this mountain top experience fill our hearts with your light, may we be filled with your love, may we be filled with hope. Lord, just as Moses and your disciples were changed by their experiences we too are changed and transformed by this sacrament into the image of Christ by your mercy. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and what we do here that these your gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may bring life, hope, and love to all your world.*

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine 546

Communion

Prayer following communion: *Before the light of Epiphany fades, before we don the ashes of Lent, O Jesus we pray: light a light for us. Light such a light, we pray with longing. Light a light for us that leads us to peace.*

Hymn: Now to Christ who loved us 554

The time has come to depart this holy place. Be not afraid. The Spirit of the Living God goes ahead of us, with us, guiding us. May God bless you and keep you May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look kindly upon you and give you peace.

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David



February 26, 2017

EARLY SERVICE – 9 AM

Gathering: *When glory comes*
we will open our eyes to see it.
When glory shows up
we will let ourselves be overcome
not by fear but by the love it bears.
When glory shines
we will bring it back with us
all the way
all the way
all the way down.

Hymn: Jesus on the mountain peak (vs.1-2) 185

Opening Prayer: *A door stands open to heaven, and we are invited to look through to see God - surrounded by the beauty and diversity and wonder and power of all creation. We are invited to see that all we can see bows down before the God we cannot see. Holy, holy, holy!*

Hymn: Jesus on the mountain peak (vs.3& 4b) 185

Confession and contemplation: *You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the mountain of Transfiguration: Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives. You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth: Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us. You bless our lives with boundless love: Yet we fail to witness to that love, and so keep others from knowing you. Forgive our selfishness, we pray. Transform us by your Spirit and your Word into that which pleases you, the image of Christ. Amen.*

Words of Assurance: *Jesus admonished Peter, James, and John not to tell of what they witnessed on the mountain until he was resurrected. But we can tell what we have seen and heard of God's glory! Here is the good news: Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven! Go, share the vision! We'll tell of God's love! In this God is well pleased!*

Hymn: Lord the light of your love is shining (1) 376

Exodus 24:12-18 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up

on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Hymn: Lord the light of your love is shining (2) 376

Reflect on: "I don't know if what <Matthew> tells us is an actual event, an allegory, a short story or what. But I do know that I am called to act on what I believe and trust in the story. Which is, that in Jesus I catch glimpses of what God is doing in the world – that in Jesus I see someone I want to follow for the rest of my life; that with Jesus I find myself on mountaintops and in valleys and in every place in between, but never find myself alone anywhere."

Thom Shuman

Today's reading returns us to the Exodus story...(which) provided inspiration for the civil rights movement. God has summoned Moses to the mountaintop for one more glimpse of divine glory. The nation of Israel has left the oppressive, but familiar, land of Egypt and is venturing toward an unknown land of promise. In between the agony they once knew and the glory that awaits them is a wilderness experience that will test their faith. The desert will become God's pathway to the promise.

When life grew hard during Israel's 40 years in the wilderness, I suspect that Moses frequently recalled his mountaintop experience on Sinai. A mountaintop gives perspective. The panoramic view provides a larger landscape for our vision. (Travis Tamerius)

- What inspires you when you find yourself lost in a spiritual desert? What sustains you during difficult days and long nights of struggle? Call to mind where you once caught sight of God's presence. And look in faith to the future of God's glory.

Hymn: Lord the light of your love is shining (3) 376

Invitation: *We have been invited into the very presence of the word made flesh, into an experience of the glory of the Lord. We need eyes wide open and heart burning as we gather at this table. God of fire and of cloud, grant us a vision of your abiding presence and give us strength for today. Amen.*

