

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. It is our delight, God of the universe, to give you thanks through Jesus Christ. You said, 'Let there be light', and the light came, to shine on in our darkness. For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms. You have created us to hear your word, to do your will, and to be filled in your love. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.* (Continue in prayer) *By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, Creator God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over our earthly gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. According to Jesus' commandment: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory. (Our Father...)*

Hymn: We come as guests invited 524

Communion

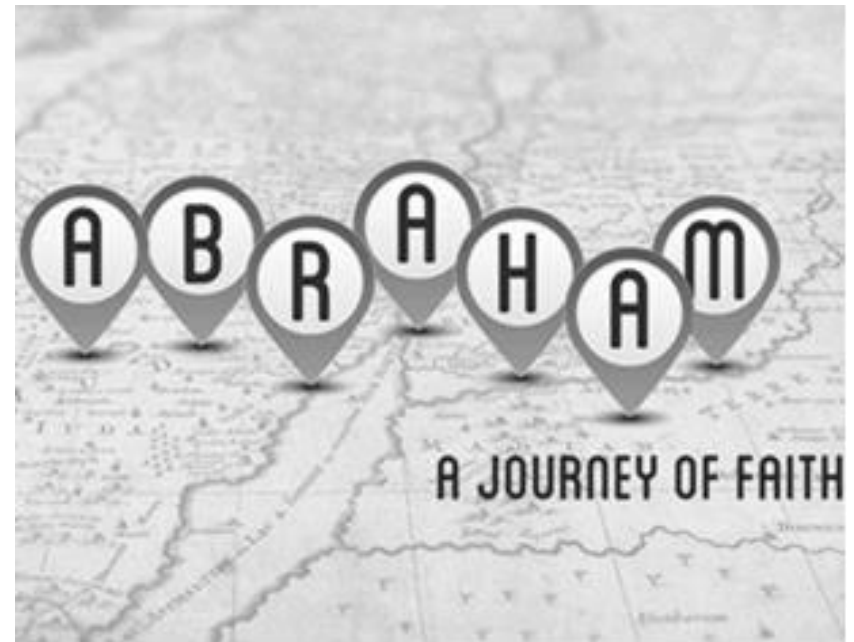
Prayer following communion: *God of past and future. Know that we are grateful. For the power of your spirit. For your call and invitation to serve, For the differences among us For the promise of life that transcends fear. For the cloud of witnesses that inspire us. For the companionship of friends on the way. We give you thanks. Amen.*

We follow our faithful Lord. These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard... We follow our faithful Lord. It is God who sustains the journey, not the temptations of this world... We follow our faithful Lord. In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm... We follow our faithful Lord. Come, let us worship the One whom we serve... We follow our faithful Lord.

Hymn: Lord, dismiss us with your blessing 468

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David



March 12, 2017

**JOURNEY – IN THE
PROMISES OF GOD**

Gathering: *Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same. As you did with Abraham and Sarah, you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your Church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.*

Hymn: O Master let me walk (1-2) **642**

*Confession: In these days of information overload, we need to look and listen deeply for the call of the Spirit in our midst. Enlightening Spirit, when we get discouraged in seeking your Truth in the midst of bewilderment, **Have mercy, and clear our eyes.** Challenging Spirit, when witnessing to your Truth seems to take more courage than we have, **Have mercy, and strengthen our determination on our journey.** Surprising Spirit, when we settle for half-truths in building your Beloved Community, **Have mercy, and show us a better way to the place you'd have us be.** (Silence) *We know the love of God knows no bounds, The Holy One who sent Jesus, the Only Begotten, to be our Way, our Truth and our Light. Let us feel ourselves forgiven, and go forth with courage renewed. Thanks be to God!**

Hymn: O Master let me walk (3-4) **642**

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

"The call to Abraham though does not come alone. It is important to note that God's command is accompanied with a fivefold promise presented in five 1st person statements in verses 2-3a: God

says: "**I** will make of you a great nation, **I** will bless you, **I** will magnify your name, **I** will bless those who bless you and **I** will curse those who curse you." God says in no unclear terms that there is a future waiting for Abraham and Sarah. And God is making some big promises: land to a landless people, offspring to a barren couple... So how does Abraham respond? We read in verse 4 that Abraham (and we could add Sarah) went. Abraham and Sarah believed God's promise, so Abraham and Sarah went. As Romans 4:18-21 describes this unwavering faith of Abraham (and Sarah): "Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'... Genesis 12:1-4 speaks a powerful word today in those instances when we are called to leave all that is known behind; to relinquish all our comforts and securities; to follow God with closed eyes; to depart on a journey without a map. The journey may be long, sometimes much longer than one may have thought. It is a journey with many ups and downs, many joys and sorrows. But it is journey filled with many, many promises -- the most important being the promise of God's presence to show us the way." (Juliana Claassens)

Quiet Meditation

A prayer to help us when we search in the night
Birth us all anew, O God. Hear us and help us on our journey.
Help us to grow up again,
to accept not only earthly things but heavenly things,
to lift up your Son and be lifted up ourselves,
to let your Spirit move us beyond our understanding.
God of Nicodemus and all of us,
hear us and help us
even as surely as the Spirit blows among us,
all for the sake of your dear Son, Amen

Invitation: *Come, take and eat lest the journey be too long for you.*

Hymn: One more step **641**