

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
June 11, 2017 Trinity



... *he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were bushed.* Ps. 107:29
(Silent meditation)

"In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step home within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God, and feel God's presence; this will carry you evenly through your day's business." William Penn

Hymn: Creator God (verse 1) 286

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son Holy Trinity, Three in One, be in our meeting and our greeting, in the worship we share and the words of our prayer.

Hymn: Creator God (verse 2) 286

A time of Confession: *Jesus Christ, the face of God to us, in you we see God's love reflected: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Jesus Christ, peace from God to us, you bring reconciliation to the whole world: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Jesus Christ, our life and unity through the Spirit poured out on us: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on us, Lord, in your compassion and lead us to the joys of everlasting life. Amen.*

Hymn: Creator God (verse 3) 286

Assurance: *Friends, hear this great good news: God continually shows us another way. God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. So let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love through the Holy Spirit.*

Hymn: Creator God (verse 4) 286

Introduction to reading:

Back to 'the Shack'... those who know me well know the novel 'The Shack' is not high on my list of Good reads. But somehow it always comes to mind on Trinity Sunday... maybe as one more feeble attempt to put into words what is beyond language to convey. The scripture for this Sunday simply puts in the form of a blessing what we have experienced of God in this life.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*

Hymn: Mothering God, you gave me birth (1-2) 312



“That's how Paul Young pictures God in his novel "The Shack" (2007). The book was rejected by twenty-six publishers, and so at first Young self-published it. Later it was lampooned by many self-appointed (and self-important) theological

gatekeepers. Today there are 10 million copies of "The Shack" in print — a sure sign that the book speaks very powerfully to many readers.

The "shack" is a metaphor for your place of shame, the "icon of your deepest pain," or "the place of your nightmares." In an interview, Young describes the shack as "the place we build to hide all our crap."

The novel begins with a mysterious note from God, who invites Mack, the main character, back to the shack. And so the shack is also a place of healing, for the intimate and tender God always meets us in "the middle of our mess."

What Young has written — and his critics are right about this point — is really a doctrine of God in story form. But it's no Athanasian Creed with technical abstractions. He pictures the trinitarian God who welcomes us back to the shack as El-ousia, "a large beaming African-American woman" (Father), a "small, distinctively Asian woman" named Sarayu who collects tears (the Spirit), and a Middle Eastern man dressed like a laborer (Jesus). Mack discovers that God isn't like he thought. He's not the product of his projections, or the neat formulas of academic theology. He's perfectly good. He intends to heal and not humiliate us. Mack learns to trust him fully and believe that God is near. That's the good news on Trinity Sunday."

Hymn: Mothering God, you gave me birth (3) **312**

Invitation:

Come now and see the wonder of life and love poured out for us. Call Your people, all Your people into the communion of Your love, Where each is named and known, and this we pray in the love of the Father, the healing of the Son, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: Break now the bread of life (verses 1-2) **507**

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. Creator God,*

we give you thanks for the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers. Redeemer God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection. Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life. May this meal we will share renew us and inspire us to work for peace and justice in the world. Amen. (Prayer continues) *Holy Spirit, we pray you that you would fill our hearts with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. Renew us and kindle the fire of faith brightly within us. Make us bold witnesses to the truth of the Holy Scriptures which you inspired.*

Hymn: Break now the bread of life (verses 3) **507**

Communion

Prayer after Holy Communion *Let us give thanks for this meal. We thank you Christ for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth as a precious planet in our cosmos. Amen.*

Hymn: May the Lord bless you **553**



May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us; May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us; And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us from now into eternity.

Amen.