

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
September 17, 2017



Last Sunday we heard Jesus' call to take up the cross and follow his way. We gather as people of the cross, fellow travelers on a journey of faith. In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who calls us to love one another, let us worship the God of love.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

Hymn: Joyful, joyful we adore you (verses 1 and 2) **410**

Meditation: *Sit quietly, breathing slowly, with your hands open on your lap in a receptive posture. Be still, and breathe deeply. Be aware of God's presence, all around and within you. Breathe in the love of God. Breathe out all that would separate you from God.*

Opening Prayer: together

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled all creation from the beginning, and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all of us into the circle of your tender love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Joyful, joyful (verses 3 and 4) **410**

Matthew 18:21- 35

Steps Toward Forgiveness

First,

we acknowledge our anger and hurt. Rather than deny or suppress these negative emotions, we need to confront them, feel them, express them in a safe way, before we can begin to forgive.

Second,

we refuse to seek revenge. We withstand that natural urge to even the score, to pay back wrong with more wrong, hurt with further hurt.

Third,

we consider our own part in the conflict. We resist the tendency to put all the blame on others while making excuses for ourselves.

Fourth,

we put ourselves in the other's place. We use our imagination to see things from their point of view, so that we can try to understand why they act the way they do.

Fifth,

we remember that we have been forgiven. Recalling God's forgiving love for us makes us more gracious and forgiving toward others.

Sixth,

