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,

we have patience. When we have been greatly wronged or deeply hurt, forgiveness is a long and difficult process. It takes time and effort for one who has been wronged to be freed from anger and bitterness. It takes time and grace for a wrongdoer to have a change of attitude and acknowledge the wrong.

Lastly (seventh),

and all the way through the process of forgiving, we seek God's help. We pray for the person who has hurt or wronged us, asking God to bless that person. We pray for ourselves, asking God to change our heart and enable us to forgive.

Prayer: Teach Us to Forgive (together)

Lord, teach us to forgive. Teach us not to nurture the hurt once received, but to let it go, to give back our pain to you and let you transform our hurt into an invitation to healing. Teach us to seek reconciliation in all things, to reach out, to risk, to be the first one to act to set things right when things are wrong.

Teach us to put ourselves in the place of others, to see the world as they see it, to experience life as they must live it, in order that we may gain some sympathy with their situation. Teach us to tell the truth to one another, but first to ourselves, to admit our wrongs, to take responsibility for our sins, then to repent and try to make amends.

Lord, teach us to forgive.

(William H. Willimon.)

Hymn: The Lord's Prayer

831

Invitation:

In the name of the One who said, "I am the bread of life," I invite you to come and eat. In the name of the One who said, "I am the true vine," I invite you to come and drink. In the name of the One who said, "Love one another as I have loved you," I invite you to the table of Jesus Christ.

Together let us celebrate the feast of love.

Hymn: I come with joy (verses 1 and 2) 530

Prayer of Thanksgiving: The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues)

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give you thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Prayer continues)

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Hymn: I come with joy (verses 3, 4, and 5) <u>530</u>

Prayer after Holy Communion: together God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May this food and drink strengthen us in faith and love, and help us to serve you in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Servant Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace 740

