

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

October 15, 2017

COME

TO



THE

WATERS

*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.***

*Hear me, everyone who thirst, come to the waters – you who are tired at the day's end, **Come to the Waters.***

*You who carry heavy burdens, **Come to the Waters.** You who came from far and you who came from near, **Come to the Waters.** Jesus came to the waters and transformed the world and invited us to do the same. **Let us come to the waters and find life!***

Prayer of the Day *God of the running water, we pray for our world where waterways are polluted with rubbish, where streams that once were clean now carry poisonous bacteria and chemicals and our rivers are being clogged with death. All people depend on clean water for life but now many have been abandoned by those who could help.*

*As we raise our water before you hear the cries of those without clean water, and quench their thirst. We pray for those who have power to bring water where the people need it, especially for governments who set policy and decide where to build pipes or to go to war. May they listen to the people and acknowledge their continued roles in maintaining their water systems while seeking better ways of sharing the water with all who depend on it. **Hear the cries of those without clean water and quench their thirst.***

Hymn: As the deer pants for the Water

27

Voice: Let us turn our hearts, our minds and bodies towards you as we pray. **We face the North.** From this place, and looking back through time in the history of our country and our peoples, we remember the rivers. Rivers have made us what we are and connect us. They bring communities together, they provided easier transportation and made early commerce possible. All our lives are bound together by these rivers. O God, creator of the waters above and the waters below, make us one body, like the body of rivers flowing together from many sources. Help us to remember that what happens to one part of the body affects all others. Help us to be mindful of the protection of our water systems, as we are also mindful of protecting and standing with all parts of the body of Christ, your world, your people.

Pause for silent prayer

We face the East As we turn towards the rising sun, we remember the oceans, fisheries, long and dangerous journeys and all people who make their living from water and on the water. We remember how the oceans brought a diversity of people to this country and met the first peoples here. We pray for people who make their living from the water, and we pray for people who still cross oceans to find a safe home. May we continue to be a people of welcome, of sanctuary, of new possibilities and opportunities and be gracious to share the abundance of our home. **We face the South** (*group turns to*

all face the South together) As we turn to the South we remember the many, many people who live in urban communities. Unseen, underneath our cities are the water systems that make the city possible, the water systems that provide for homes and offices, and all the business and industrial uses of water. Help us never to forget our dependence on water systems. We pray too that we be mindful of using water responsibly and ethically, and that really, all the water we ‘use’ is water we actually just borrow. Keep us mindful of preserving the integrity of water and remember how precious it is as a resource. Help us teach our children to care for our water.

Pause for silent prayer **We face the West** Looking westward, we remember the rural uses of water—water for farms, for irrigation for crops, for animals and to grow the food that supports all of our lives. Most of our congregations across the country are found in rural places. We pray for rural communities and that we will be mindful of their vitality and importance in the web of sustaining life. In this place and time, as we stand and pray together, we pray especially for communities who do not yet have access to safe, reliable drinking water. We remember especially aboriginal communities for whom this is an ongoing struggle. We pray for our communities, our leaders, our own capacities to speak out. Creator God, who gave us the gift of the waters above and the waters below, help us to ensure that all your children have access to good water. We pray that everyone’s right to water will be heard and respected. *Pause for silent prayer*

We face into the center of this space. As we have come full circle in our movement and prayers, may we remember the path that water takes as it cycles through our lives. Let us remember, just like the water cycle, that what we put in is ultimately what we get back. Help us to live in ways that proclaim your glory together for the love of the world. In the name of Jesus’, our source of life and wholeness let us pray together the Lord’s prayer... **Amen.**

Hymn: As water to the Thirsty

688

A Conversation with Katharine

When or where has water been important to you...
Where is water in your faith?
Jesus and water – miracle story and symbols
Water as a place of reconciliation



Invitation: Christ calls us to come to the waters

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. (Continue in thanksgiving)

O God, giver of all that is good, Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May we know you in the fullness of your presence – Redeemer, Reconciler and Restorer. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other.

Hymn: You thirsty ones (1-3)

190

Communion

Prayer after Communion *Thanks be to you, reconciling God, for your love and mercy and forgiveness in Christ. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.*

Hymn: You thirsty ones (4-5)

190

Christians gathered here today, brothers and sisters in faith, we who would wish to be a sign of reconciliation through the power of the cross: May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: May the Lord bless you

553