

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

October 22, 2017



CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens are telling the glory of God. **May our worship reflect God's glory.** The firmament proclaims God's handiwork. **May we see each other as the handiwork of God.** Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God. **We seek communion with God and one another. Let us worship!**

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 1-2)

123

Confession: *If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need: **forgive us, Lord.** If we conceal your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centredness: **forgive us, Lord.** If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness: **forgive us, Lord.** If we conceal your justice through our failure to empower those who are powerless: **forgive us, Lord.** If we conceal your mercy because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes: **forgive us, Lord.** If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance: **forgive us, Lord.** Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that we reveal your glory in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in your name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen***

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 3-4)

123

Exodus 33:11-23 **11** Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent. Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Hymn My soul give glory (vs. 5)

123

Shekinah is a word *not* found in the Bible. It literally means in Hebrew, "residence," or "dwelling." It is from a Hebrew root that *is* in the Bible, often translated as "to dwell." For example, "God dwells among His people." If you were to look that Hebrew term up, you would see the similarity to the word Shekinah. It came to mean, over time, instead of literally "residence," or "dwelling,"—"God's visible presence." That word "visible" is very

important—God's visible presence. Or, as I saw in one place, "The visible Majesty of the Divine Presence."

All descriptions of the Shekinah say that it was a most brilliant and glorious light enveloped in a cloud. So, when the Bible describes it as a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire it is splitting into two what was actually one. It was always a pillar of fire and it was always a pillar of cloud. But, in the night, God emphasized for the Israelites the light and fire. And during the day, God emphasized the mass of cloud. So that, during the day, with the brilliant sunshine that was probably pretty common over the wilderness of Sinai, you saw the cloud. But, in the night when it was dark (and when you don't have city lights and other types of lights out there it gets pretty dark) what came through was this fiery pillar. And so during the night it was light, and during the day, it was solid and substantial; you will find if you go through this that they often call it a dark cloud. The Lord rides on a dark cloud. "Dark clouds surround Him, and fire burns his foes..." is the image that we have here. When God is around, there is usually a cloud. And there is usually a brightness coming out of the cloud.

Focus Questions 1. Where and how do you experience God's presence? 2. What pillar reminds you of the presence of God during your day? 3. Moses wanted the experience of seeing the glory of God – what is God's glory to you? 4. How might you reflect God's glory?

Hymn: God to Glory 812

Prayers of the People: *O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.*

Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection. O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. *Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.*

~ written by Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Hymn: God of grace and God of Glory (vs. 1-2) 490

Invitation: *No one can earn a place at this meal. Come of your own choice. You need only desire a deeper relationship with the risen Christ. Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your deliberations and your doubts. **We come to be made whole.***

Hymn: God of grace and God of Glory (vs. 3- 5) 490

Great Thanksgiving

*May God be with you **And also with you!** Lift your hearts **We lift them up to God!** Let us give thanks to God most high. **It is right to give God thanks and praise!** Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, each and all created in your image. **We thank you for your covenants. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honour each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer thanks that when we ignored your embrace, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you.** Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as church. Thank you for continuing to bring us together that we may celebrate you.*

Hymn: Here is bread 546

Communion

Prayer after Communion *Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. **Grow in us that we may nourish others.** Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

Hymn: May the Lord bless you 553

