



## **West Richmond Church of the Brethren**

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*“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”*

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April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

# Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Christ Triumphant*

George Blake

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

From *Laying Down Our Stones*,  
a liturgy adapted from a 2010 Lenten study  
compiled by the World Council of  
Churches, the World YMCA, and WSCF.

Leader: Outcast God, born into poverty in an occupied land,  
driven from your land as your family fled violence,  
living alongside the marginalized and the oppressed,  
dying between criminals to the jeers of the crowd,

**All: Open our eyes, that we who seek to follow  
you may recognize your face in the faces of  
those who are enslaved.  
Open our ears, that we who seek to hear your  
word may recognize your love in the stories  
which are often drowned out.  
Open our hearts, that we who seek your way  
of life may be bold in witnessing to your  
longing for justice and peace.**

### \* Opening Prayer

Working Preacher

Mysterious and Divine Presence, too often our hearts burn  
within us because our bodies know before our minds that  
you are here working in us and through us in this world.  
Open our eyes and help us to recognize you in all places and  
in all people, for the sake of the one whose presence is  
never far, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### \* Hymn

*Low in the grave*

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I Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;

with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

- 2 Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]
- 3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

## **CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY**

### **Time with Our Children**

#### **Congregational Prayer**

Joan Pulls, a Franciscan sister

Companion Lord, in what remains of my life,  
I want to build, with others, a bit more of your kingdom.

With others I want to experience you  
as we walk together towards Emmaus,  
have the scriptures open to us  
and feel our hearts burning within us.

With others I want to recognise you  
in the breaking of bread,  
and in our daily journey through the Galilee  
of our common lives.

With this hope, with this prayer,  
may we travel forward  
until our travelling days are done. Amen.

#### **Song**

*Lord, I lift your name on high*

Rick Founds

Lord, I lift Your name on high.  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life,  
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

## **WORSHIP IN GIVING**

### **Thoughts on Giving**

Carol Penner

Like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread. We invite God to be with us as we offer God our love, our devotion, these gifts. May our eyes be opened to God's holy presence, now and always.

## **LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **Special Music**

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

arr. Marty Parks

### **Scripture Lesson**

Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,

and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Sermon**

“The Stranger”

## **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

**\* Closing Hymn**     *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!*

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- I    Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!  
      His cross stands empty to the sky.  
      Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
      His love in death, shall never die.

- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now,  
and conquer ev'ry place and time.
- 3 Christ is alive! His Spirit burns  
through this and ev'ry other age,  
till all creation lives and learns  
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

**\* Benediction**

And now, may the Risen Christ walk with us this day to be our companion and guide, our teacher and friend, our host and servant, bringing his gifts of faith, peace and hope and deep joy as always. Amen.

**\* Postlude**

*Open, My Eyes*

Clara H. Fiske Scott

*\* Please stand as able and led*



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Carol Goss
Children's Time.....	Terrie Glass
Flautist .....	Sarah Beers
Guitarist .....	Dave Whitten
Organist/Pianist .....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Technology & Media.....	Kevin Beers

*"Christ Triumphant" by George Blake*

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*"Lord I Lift Your Name on High" by Rick Founds*

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*"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" arr. By Marty Parks*

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*"Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing!" by Brian Wren*

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