



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



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

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May 16, 2021

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

# Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

arr. Lloyd Larson

## **GIVE PRAISE TO GOD**

### **\* Opening Words**

Journey into Wholeness by Christine Sine

One: God who is One, You call us to be one,

**Many: May we be one with all who are made in Your image.**

One: God who is Three, You call us to be community,

**Many: May we find community with all who are called by Your name.**

One: God who calls us all by Your name,

**Many: May find our place in Your eternal family.**

### **\* Opening Prayer**

One: God Almighty, today by the power of Your spirit we unite in prayer,

**Many: We unite with all our sisters and brothers in Christ.**

One: We unite with sisters and brothers from all Christian churches and denominations,

**Many: We unite with all who are joined by the holy spirit of God.**

One: We unite with followers from every church and congregation,

**Many: We unite with God's sons and daughters from every creed and culture. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

**\* Opening Hymn**      *In Christ there is no East or West*      #306  
(verses 1-3)

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Time with Our Children

#### Special Music

*Rainbow Falls*

Melody Bober

#### Children's Story

#### Litany of Confession

*Journey into Wholeness by Christine Sine*

One: God, we believe you have called us to unity, but  
often we have isolated ourselves from others,

**Many: God, forgive us for the times we have  
turned our backs on those who are  
different.**

One: God, we believe you have called us to live  
together as one body,

**Many: God, forgive us for the times we have  
created division within your worldwide  
church.**

One: God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others,

**Many: God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.**

One: God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name,

**Many: Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.**

One: God, we believe you call us to be one even as you are one,

**Many: Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one.**

One: God and Creator of all humankind, your son Jesus Christ prayed that your church might be one even as you our God are one.

May you renew our minds and rekindle your love in our hearts, so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that you intend for us.

**Many: God, may we see in your Oneness our need for unity, God, may we see in your Threeness our need for community God, may we see in your creativity our need for diversity, God, may we see in your Self our need to love each other. Amen.**

## **Song**

*They'll know we are Christians by our love*

Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that our unity may one day be restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

Refrain

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

Refrain

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### **Thoughts on Giving**

When you give to God, you discover God gives to you.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### **Special Music**

*The Dream*

O'Carolan

### **Scripture Lesson**

Galatians 3:23-29 (NRSV)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

### **Sermon**

“Our Primary Identity”

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \* **Closing Hymn**

*Here in this place (verses 1-2, 4)*

#6

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in - the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in - and hold us forever,  
gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### \* **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

*To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King*

A. Giamance

*\* Please stand as able and led*



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Susan Robertson
Special Musics .....	Zherina Whitten, Sarah Beers & Bob Phillips
Flautist .....	Sarah Beers
Guitarist .....	David Whitten
Pianist.....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Technology & Media.....	Kevin Beers

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