



## West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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*"Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together."*

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March 29, 2020

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

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### Welcome and Announcements

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### Opening Words

Ministry Matters

Leader: God has called all God's people to lives of hope and service.

**People: We want to serve God, but sometimes life gets to be too difficult for us.**

Leader: Place your trust in God's power and love.

**People: God understands our needs, our sorrows, and our joys.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God who is with us always.

**People: Praise God for God's eternal presence.**

### Opening Prayer

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Time with Our Children

### Congregational Prayer

[freedfromfreedfor.org](http://freedfromfreedfor.org)

Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

Source of our hope, ground your church in the promises of our baptism and make us bold in proclaiming your love and grace even in fearful and anxious times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, heal the brokenness in your creation and give us the vision necessary to protect what you have entrusted to us, Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, grant wisdom and insight to our public leaders that they may steer the nations through this crisis with minimal loss of life or livelihood. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, help those living in great fear at this time, comfort them with the knowledge of your presence with them now and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, provide healing and comfort to all those battling disease, work through our healthcare system to bring a quick resolution to the corona virus pandemic. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, make your church into a shining example of love and care in these difficult times and use our assembly to do your work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of our hope, turn our eyes to the example of the saints and keep us firm in following the way of the cross. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with an upright heart. **Amen.**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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Into the silence of the void our Creator spoke, bringing life. The Cosmic Christ and the Holy Spirit hovered.  
Over the waters --

matter from nothing,  
flesh from dust,  
life from lifelessness.

We believe Jesus can bring life out of nothing,  
but three days is a long time to wait.

Jesus, in our waiting for new life, give us hope.  
Show us your resurrection power that we may fully  
believe.

**Song**

*Lord I Need You*

## **WORSHIP IN GIVING**

**Thoughts on Giving**

Galatians 6:9-10 (ESV)

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So, then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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

**Scripture Lesson**

Mark 14:3-9 (NRSV)

The Anointing at Bethany

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have

me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

**Sermon**

A Beautiful Thing!

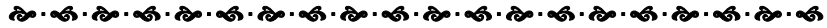
## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**Benediction**

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“Come out!” Jesus cries, calling us from our tombs into a world full of grace and possibility.

“Go out!” Jesus commands, calling us into the world to live as God’s resurrected people.



## News and Announcements

**\*The Church office and all activities will remain closed until further notice. \***

**Please email any prayer requests, questions, etc. to [wrcob@wrcob.org](mailto:wrcob@wrcob.org) or [tasja.begley@wrcob.org](mailto:tasja.begley@wrcob.org)**



**LENT** During the five Sundays of Lent and Palm Sunday, we will be inviting you to DENY yourself and TAKE UP the cross and follow Jesus. We are aware of the increasing violence once again in Nigeria against our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Executive Committee recommends that we TAKE UP a special offering in response to their plight through the Nigeria Crisis Fund of the Church of the Brethren Global Missions. Place checks in the Offering Plates made out to the church ear marked "Nigeria Crisis Fund". On Palm Sunday we will conclude with a Special Offering for the horrific and desperate situations Christians find in Northern Nigeria.