



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Just As I Am

arr. Shackley

“Just As I Am” by Larry Shackley, William Batchelder Bradbury
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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

We gather today to worship, to give praise to our Maker, Redeemer, and Guiding Presence. May God open our minds and hearts this day so that we might learn the answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and by our worship, may we be strengthened to live the lesson learned. May God’s Holy Presence enrich and empower us. Let us pray.

* Opening Prayer

Working Preacher

Compassionate God, how easily you love those who look unlovable to us! How readily you welcome undesirables into your home! How slow we are to follow your example. Turn our hearts toward all who are considered outcast, shunned, and unclean so that we may love our neighbor without pity or apathy, for the sake of the one who became flesh to cleanse the world of sin and death forever, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen

Brothers and sisters of mine are the hungry,
who sigh in their sorrow and weep in their pain.
Sisters and brothers of mine are the homeless,
who wait without shelter from wind and from rain.

Strangers and neighbors, they claim my attention.
They sleep by my doorstep, they sit by my bed.
Neighbors and strangers, their anguish concerns me,
and I must not feast till the hungry are fed.

People are they, men and women and children,
and each has a heart keeping time with my own.
People are they, persons made in God's image,
so what shall I offer them, bread or a stone?

Lord of all living, we make our confession:
Too long we have wasted the wealth of our lands.
Lord of all loving, renew our compassion,
and open our hearts while we reach out our hands.

"Brothers and sisters of mine" by Kenneth L. Morse and Wilbur E. Brumbaugh
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CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Pastoral Prayer

(Introduction and Conclusion from

[Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#), copyright © 2002)

One: 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. Teach the church what it means to love and serve our neighbors, keep us from hypocrisy and fear that we may truly see and reach out towards all people. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: Teach humanity to care for the earth as you care for it, help us to see the interconnectedness of the world and work to preserve what you have entrusted to us. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: Teach our leaders the ways of justice and peace, and grant us all the humility to set the welfare of all over our own personal desires. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: Teach us to reach out in love and support to those around us, pursuing loving and edifying relationships and community. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: Teach us how to best love and support those who are suffering in mind body or soul and grant us the courage to care for them. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: Teach this assembly how to walk in your ways and how to best serve our communities and neighbors. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: We give you thanks for the teaching of the saints and we pray that we too may sound forth your praise and glory in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Lord in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayer.

One: 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.

All: Amen.

Hymn

Praise, I will praise you, Lord

#76

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,

and glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Serve, I will serve you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

“Praise, I will praise you, Lord” by Claude Frayssé and Alain Bergèse
French Text and Music © 1976 by Alain Bergèse, Cours du
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WORSHIP IN GIVING

Offering Statement

LeAnne Zook, adapted

What will you offer the body of Christ today? Bring all that you have. Bring all that you are. All gifts are welcome. The gifts of leading and the gifts of following. The gifts of doubt and the gifts of faith. The gifts of the head and the gifts of the heart. May all that we are as individuals come together to strengthen the living body of the church, Christ Incarnate.

LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music *They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Peter Scholtes

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” by Peter Scholtes
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Scripture Lesson

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Sermon “Jesus Is In the Neighborhood”

Hymn *Will you let me be your servant* #307

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey,
we are trav'lers on the road.

We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we will find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

"The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard

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GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

Love is the Theme

Fisher

** Please stand as able and led*



Pastor.....David Whitten
Worship Leader.....Jori Carter
Children's Story..... Terrie Glass
Special Music..... Barbara Beers

Flutist..... Sarah Beers
Guitarist.....Dave Whitten
Pianist.....Bob Phillips
Dir. of Technology & Media..... Kevin Beers