



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

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

March 21, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

At the Cross

Gregg Sewell

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Invitation to Worship

(based on Jeremiah 31:31-34)

We gather in the spirit of prophet Jeremiah's vision, wanting God to write a new covenant of love upon our hearts. With that love upon our hearts, we will know the Lord and more fully know each other. We will walk in the footsteps of Jesus, journeying toward the cross and living in the way of sacrificial service.

* Opening Prayer

(based on Psalm 51:1-12)

One: We believe in your mercy, creator God, for you work even through our mistakes.

All: We believe in your grace, ever present God, for you free us to hear the sounds of new life and hope.

One: We believe in your loyalty, empowering God, for you recreate pure hearts within us.

All: We believe in your call, journeying God, for you point us to Jesus who walked in the way of living sacrifice and love for all. Amen

* Hymn

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing (vv. 1-3)

110

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrow cease,
'tis music to the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice
new life the dead receive,

the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Congregational Prayer

(adapted from *Lost in Wonder, Love, & Praise*

by John R. Killenger)

O God, who is known in heartbreak and in hope, and who has made yourself known in Jesus. Let his teachings reverberate in our minds, and his spirit of sacrificial love in overwhelmed hearts. Let the image of his dying, the sound of nails driven into his hands, the thud of the cross lifted and dropped into the ground, the groaning of a man swimming upstream to death, be recreated so vividly in our memories that we take on new allegiance to his way of compassion. Forgive any lackluster and haphazard attention to our relationships, our commitments, our better selves, our church, our world. Anoint the sick with your healing power, the young with your wisdom, the enthusiastic with your patience, and the tired with your energy. Amen.

Hymn

Strong, righteous man of Galilee (vv. 1-3)

#540

Strong, righteous man of Galilee,
robed with thy peace we follow thee -
in temple court, thy cleansing rod
on greed and lies, the wrath of God
Robed with thy peace we follow thee,
strong, righteous man of Galilee

Firm, peaceful man of Galilee,
girt with thy strength we follow thee -
not to revenge, but heal and pray,
to turn the cheek, and tribute pay.
Girt with thy strength we follow thee,
firm, peaceful man of Galilee.

Calm, suff'ring man of Galilee,
clad in thy grace we follow thee -
love at the well, share Martha's loss,
forgive the nails, and take the cross.
Clad in thy grace we follow thee,
calm, suff'ring man of Galilee.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

(based on Hebrews 5:5-10)

Though Jesus suffered, he continued to be obedient to God by praying through cries and tears. He became a priest, a bridge builder between God and humanity. We too seek to be bridge builders in our world, living obediently and sharing freely.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Blessed Redeemer

Stan Pethel

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 27:26-31, 39-46, 50-54 (GNB)

Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified. Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews! They said. They spat on him and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Save yourself if you are the God's Son! Come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and the elders made fun of him: “He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Isn’t he the king of Israel? If he will come down from the cross now, we will believe in him! He trusts in God and claims to be God’s Son. Well, then, let us see if God wants to save now.” Even the bandits who had been crucified with him insulted him in the same way.

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why did you abandon me?”

Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last. Then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks split apart, the graves broke open, and many of God’s people who had died were raised to life. They left the graves, and after Jesus rose from death, they went into the Holy City, where many people saw them.

When the army officer and the soldiers with him who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and everything else that happened, they were terrified and said, “He really was the Son of God!”

Sermon “The Sacrifice of Suffering Love”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*** Hymn**

Go to dark Gethsemane

#240

Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter’s pow’r.
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away.
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned.

Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
 Oh, the pangs his soul sustained
 Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss.
 Learn of him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb.
 There, adoring at his feet,
 mark the miracle of time,
 God's own sacrifice complete.
 "It is finished!" hear the cry.
 Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

*** Benediction**

(based on John 12:20-33)

O God, we seek to look upon Jesus, to see him as a grain of wheat sown in the soil of our world. From that act of sowing, we see a love that is sacrificial in its suffering depths. Teach us to embrace this love, to follow, to serve, to show forth the wonders of your grace. Amen.

*** Postlude**

Song of Joy

Robert Hughes

** Please stand as able and led*



Pastor David Whitten
 Guest SpeakerDavid Brunk
 Worship LeaderBarbara Beers
 Children's Time..... Terrie Glass
 Song Leader.....Barbara Beers
 Flautist..... Sarah Beers
 Organist/PianistBob Phillips
 Dir. of Technology & Media.....Kevin Beers



"At the Cross" by Gregg Sewell, Ralph E. Hudson
 © 1979 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

"Blessed Redeemer" by Stan R. Pethel
 © 2019 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

"Strong, righteous man of Galilee" by Harry W. Farrington
 Text © Mrs. Harry Webb Farrington

"Song of Joy" by Robert J. Hughes
 © 1962, 1963, 1964, 1979 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
 CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A