



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



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

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May 9, 2021

Mother's Day

# Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

*More Love to Thee*

William Doane

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* **Opening Words**

Carol Penner, posted on Leading in Worship

And Jesus said, "Come!"  
To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"  
to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"  
to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"  
Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy-laden,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble of heart  
and you will find rest for your souls."

### \* **Opening Prayer**

Our Creator God, we give thanks for it was you who formed our inwards parts and knit us together in our mothers' womb. We praise you for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are you works. We honor you in all we do in this morning's worship. Amen.

### \* **Opening Hymn**

*For the beauty of the earth*

#89

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,

hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain ]

3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]

4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

5 For thy church that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
off'ring up on ev'ry shore  
her pure sacrifice of love: [Refrain]

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Time with Our Children

#### Congregational Prayer

<http://www.worldinprayer.org/>

Holy One, we gather in your presence to give you thanks and to celebrate the gift of your love; a love that supports, nurtures and challenges us in ways that strengthen and transform us. We offer you praise and thanksgiving for your unfailing presence in our lives and all of the blessings that you so generously offer us.

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we give thanks for mothers the world over. We give thanks for all those who have nurtured and care for us, remembering especially, birth mothers, adoptive mothers, surrogate mothers, aunts, grandmothers, teachers, neighbors and all women who have shared their faith with us.

We pray, compassionate God, for those mothers who have been hurt, disillusioned, or disappointed in their role as mother. We pray for those who have been denied a longed-for chance

at motherhood, and for those whose years of mothering have been cut short by the loss of a child.

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone.

Holy Creator God of us all, touch us with your healing peace and gentle embrace that we may walk in your ways bringing dignity, justice and peace to all corners of your world. All of this we pray in the strong name of Jesus.

## **Song**

*I was there to hear your burning cry*

#1078

I was there to hear your burning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living God,  
to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### **Thoughts of Giving on Mother's Day**

Proverbs 31:18, 20

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### **Special Music**

*Whatsoever Things Are Lovely*

Carl Simone

### **Scripture Lesson**

Proverbs 31:25-31 (NRSV)

Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:  
“Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

### **Sermon**

“A Tough Year for Mothers”

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \* **Closing Hymn**      *God, We Praise You for the Women*

Tune: HOLY MANNA ("Brethren we have met to worship" *Hymnal: A Worship Book #8*)

Sarah laughed to hear the promise--  
God would bless her with a son;  
Sarah laughed and Sarah doubted  
till she saw what God had done.

Refrain:

God, we praise you for the women  
who have taught us to be strong,  
who have held us, who have raised us  
with a prayer and with a song.

Pharaoh's daughter, like a mother,  
lifted Moses from a pool,  
brought him safely to the palace  
where a slave would go to school. [Refrain]

Mary watched the killing madness  
as her son died on the cross;  
she who knew the joy of childbirth  
now was torn by bitter loss. [Refrain]

As her life drew on toward evening,  
after she had raised her own,  
Lois held her baby grandson,  
told him of God's love made known. [Refrain]

~ written by Daniel Charles Damon.

Posted on Hope Publishing Company's Online Hymnody website.  
<http://www.hopepublishing.com/html/main.isx>

### \* **Benediction**

<http://www.churchofengland.org/>

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.  
May almighty God bless us,  
now and for ever. Amen.

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers.....</b>	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Joel Guyer
Song Leader.....	Bob Gangwer
Special Music .....	Sarah Beers & Bob Phillips
Flautist .....	Sarah Beers
Guitarist .....	David Whitten
Pianist.....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Technology & Media.....	Kevin Beers

“I was there to hear your burning cry” by John Ylvisaker  
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“Whatsoever Things Are Lovely” by Carl Simone  
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