



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



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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June 20, 2021

Father's Day

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Faith of Our Fathers

arr. Janet Vogt

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

Adopted Christine Longhurst

One: Grace and peace to you from God our Father,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
that comes from heaven:

Men: *who knew and chose us before the world began;*

Women: *who loves us so much that he calls us his own children;*

One: who has brought you from darkness into light and
filled you with his glorious power;

Men: *who has prepared an inheritance for us that will
never spoil or fade;*

Women: *who encourages and strengthens us in every good
deed and word;*

One: who comforts you in your troubles so that you
can comfort others.

ALL: *This is our God, the ultimate source of all
things, and the One for whom we live. Let's
worship God together!*

* Opening Prayer

Christine Longhurst, adapted

Life-giving God, may your Holy Spirit inspire our praise
and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to your
presence among us and within us. Come alive in our
words and actions while we are in worship. To you alone
belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now
and to the end of time. Amen.

* Opening Hymn *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* (verses 1-3) #71

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,

Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Litany of Recognition for Father's Day †

One: On this day we recognize our fathers and stepfathers, those who have nurtured and guided us in our lives.

Many: *We thank You, O God, for those who have been fathers to us.*

One: We honor our grandfathers, our uncles and brothers, those who have demonstrated love and care to us in our lives.

Many: We thank You, O God, for those who have been like fathers to us.

One: We appreciate our teachers, leaders and pastors, who have been both male and female, but we especially honor those who have extended fatherly tenderness and love in our lives in our past and present.

Many: We thank You, O God, for those who have fulfilled a fatherly role in our lives.

One: Loving God, You have been both Mother and Father to us. Abba, Father, we remember how Jesus called out to You on earth, recognizing that You are closer to us than our earthly parents. Your love and care for us are felt in the ways we are loved and cared for by others. We thank You for all the male figures in our lives who have shared Your love with us. We ask that You guide and nurture new fathers and fathers-to-be. We seek Your forgiveness for fathers who have fallen short, for models of fatherhood that were limiting rather than embracing, for that is not Your model. You are our ever-loving Parent, Father of us all. Grant Your wisdom to all fathers and fatherly figures to love their children as You have loved Your children.

Many: We thank You, O God, for fatherhood and motherhood, for the blessing of parents in our lives.

One: Abba, Father, we pray with those who are mourning the loss of fathers today, and for those whose fathers were absent or abusive. Ease their pain on this day, loving God. May they know Your embrace, and that You are more than Father or Mother to us— You are the all-loving, all-caring Parent, Creator of heaven and earth, who knows the hairs on our heads.

Many: We thank You, O God, that You are always with us, that You will never leave us or forsake us.

One: We thank You for this day, and ask that You bless all of Your children with Your love, as a wonderful father loves their child.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn

You are salt for the earth (verses 1-3)

#226

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

You are a seed of the word, O people:
Bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Church Offering Talks

Daddy ... Pops ... Father ... Papa ... whatever your children call you, it's a sweet sound (unless they're asking for the same thing for the 50th time today, perhaps ...). The really great dads take after their Heavenly Father.

- You put your children's needs over your own.
- You sacrifice for your kids.

- You strive to teach them how to be men and women of God by modelling godly character yourself.

On this Father's Day, we'd like to honor the dads who are here today. Thank you for bringing your family to church this morning. Thank you for striving to be the role model your children need to become faithful followers of Christ. You probably mess up from time to time (we all do), but by being faithful to God and to your family, you're helping to raise up a generation of believers who'll make a positive impact on the world. That's no small task, but with God's grace and wisdom, you've got this.

Special Music

O Rest in The Lord

Mendelssohn

"O Rest in the Lord" by Felix Mendelssohn

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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 36:1-3 (NRSV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, "Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

Scripture Scene

Long-term Investment

David Radcliff

Sermon

"Prime Swampland"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** Closing Hymn** *For the healing of creation* to the tune of #367

For the healing of creation,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from greed and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
actions that despoil the land.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on all earth's kind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

"For the healing of the nations" by Fred Kaan
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*** Benediction**

Postlude

Solid Rock

arr. Adam Mason

** Please stand as able and led*



Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Guest Speaker	David Radcliff
Worship Leader	Chelsea Goss
Song Leader & Special Music.....	Bob Gangwer
Flautist.....	Sarah Beers
Pianist.....	Bob Phillips
Violinist.....	Bill Kinzie
Dir. of Technology & Media.....	Kevin Beers