



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



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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August 1, 2021

11th Sunday of Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

Theme from an Etude

F. Chopin

Theme From An Etude by David Paxton, Frederic Chopin

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

based on Proverbs 9: 1-6

One: God's kingdom is one of holy kinship.

All: **That kinship flows from a divine host who invites us to sit at table with others.**

One: At that table of delicious food and refreshing drink, we find joy despite limitations.

All: **We come together seeking to live in this joy.**

* Opening Prayer

based on Psalm 34:9-14

O God, we want to reverence you by walking in your way of compassion. In that compassion, we find true joy in life. In that compassion, we find the freedom to forbear with others and tell the truth. In that compassion, we find peace with others and with you. Amen.

* Hymn

With happy voices singing

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With happy voices singing, thy children, Lord, appear;
their joyous praises bringing in anthems full and clear:
For skies of golden splendor, for azure rolling sea,
for blossoms sweet and tender, O Lord, we worship thee.

For though no eye beholds thee, no hand thy touch may feel,
thy universe unfolds thee, thy starry heav'ns reveal.

The earth and all it's glory, our homes and all we love,
tell forth the wondrous story of One who reigns above.

And shall we not adore thee, with more than joyous song,
and live in truth before thee, all beautiful and strong?
Lord, bless our souls' endeavor, thy servants true to be,
and through all life, forever, to live our praise to thee.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Congregational Prayer

O God, as we long for cures, send us healing. As we long for continued life, give us new life. As we long for deliverance from death, teach us to accept death. As we long for release from anguish, weep with us. As we long for a way out of fear, show us how to laugh. As we long for self good, give us the good of each other. As we long for wonders, fill us with the greatest wonder, that of the love we know in Jesus. Amen.

Hymn

Help us to help each other (verses 1-3)

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Help Us To Help Each Other by Charles Wesley

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Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's load to bear,
that all my live in true accord,
our joys and pains to share.

Help us to build each other up,
your strength within us prove.
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,
and fill us with your love.

Together make us free indeed,
your life within us show,
and into you, our living Head,
let us in all things grow.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

based on Ephesians 5:15-20

We are to live as wise people, making good use of every opportunity to do what the Lord wants. God's spirit of holy kinship moves us to give thanks for everything, as we seek to share with others. The community of faith is a community of opportunities.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Song of Faith

F. Mendelssohn

Scripture

Esther 2:2, 4, 6-8, 16-17; 3:1-7; 4:1, 8-16 (GNT)

“So some of the king's advisers who were close to him suggested, ‘Why don't you make a search to find some beautiful young virgin? Then take the woman you like best and make her queen in Vashti's place. When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jehoiachin of Judah into exile from Jerusalem, along with a group of captives, Mordecai was among them. He had a cousin, Esther, whose Hebrew name was Hadassah; she was a beautiful young woman, and had a good figure. At the death of her parents, Mordecai had adopted her and brought her up as his own daughter. When the king issued his new proclamation and many young women were being brought to

Susa, Esther was among them. She too was put in the royal palace in the care of Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

Some time later King Xerxes promoted a man named Haman to the position of prime minister. Haman was the son of Hammedath, a descendant of Agag. The king ordered all the officials to show their respect for Haman by kneeling and bowing to him. They all did so, except for Mordecai, who refused to do it. The other officials in the royal service asked him why he was disobeying the king's command; day after day they urged him to give in, but he would not listen to them. 'I am a Jew,' he explained, 'and I cannot bow to Haman.' So they told Haman about this, wondering if he would tolerate Mordecai's conduct. Haman was furious when he realized that Mordecai was not going to kneel and bow to him, and when he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, decided to do more than punish Mordecai alone. He made plans to kill every Jew in the whole Persian Empire. In the 12th year of King Xerxes' rule, in the first month, the month of Nisan, Haman ordered lots to be cast ('purim' they were called), to find out the right day to carry out his plot. The 13th day of the 12th month, the month of Adar, was decided on for the killing.

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes in anguish. Then he dressed in sackcloth, covered his head with ashes, and walked through the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. Mordecai sent word to Esther, asking her to go and plead with the king to have mercy on her people. Esther gave a message back to Mordecai: 'If anyone, man or woman, goes to the inner courtyard and sees the king without being summoned, that person must die. There is only one way to get around this law: if the king holds out his gold scepter to someone, then that person's life is spared. But it has been a month since the king sent for me.

Mordecai sent back this warning: 'Don't imagine that you are safer than any other Jew just because you are in the royal palace. If you keep quiet at a time like this, help will come from heaven

to the Jews, and they will be saved, but you will die and your father's family will come to an end. Yet who knows -- maybe it was for a time like this that you were made queen!' Esther sent a reply; 'Go and get all the Jews in Susa together; hold and fast and pray for me. My servant women and I will be doing the same. After that I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die.'"

Sermon

"Maybe It Was for a Time Like This"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

Will you let me be your servant (verses 1-4)

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The Servant Song by Richard Gillard

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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 a 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 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

*** Benediction**

O God, bless us with the strength that comes from eating the living bread and drinking the empowering wine of Jesus’ love, a love that sustains us on our life journeys. Show us how to walk in his footsteps, living out his kinship in a community that calls us beyond individual limitations into holy oneness. Amen.

Postlude

Postlude in C

J. Troutman

Postlude In C by Emma L. Ashford, John Troutman

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* Please stand as able and led



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