



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



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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August 15, 2021

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

World Council of Churches

One: Christ sets before us this day life and death and calls for us to choose life that we and our children may live.

People: We accept life, so teach us to live.

One: Christ sets before us this day the challenge to seek peace and to pursue it.

People: We accept the challenge of peace, so enable us to pursue it.

One: Christ sets before us this day the call to be peacemakers;

People: to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to a suffering world.

One: We gather to embody God's love and desire for peace for all people;

People: to hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace.

One: We gather to name and confront the influence of evil within and among us;

People: to repent of our silence and complicity with the powers of chaos and death.

One: We gather to join with the oppressed and troubled people of the world in the struggle for liberation and peace;

People: to work for justice, healing and wholeness of life.

One: We gather to embrace the unity of God's people and Christ's church;

People: to make peace a reality.

* Opening Prayer

Jesus, Prince of Peace, you have asked us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We pray for our enemies and

those who oppose us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may all people learn to work together for that justice which brings true and lasting peace. To you be glory and honor for ever and ever.

*** Opening Hymn**

For the healing of the nations

367

"For the healing of the nations" by Fred Kaan

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For the healing of the nations, 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 your people into freedom, from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from greed & hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care & 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, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind.

For our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Congregational Prayer

Prayer for World Peace 1978

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new

world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created.

Song *Will you let me be your servant* (vs. 1-3, 5) # 307

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.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,

born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Church Offering Talks from Tithe.ly

At the end of Hebrews, there are several final instructions given to believers. Several of them center around loving and caring for one another as brothers and sisters.

Part of following Christ means living according to His example. During His ministry, He provided for the practical needs of people including offering them food and healing the sick.

God sees when you give and help others. He sees the attitude of your heart in those moments. He's more concerned with your motives than with the size of your gift.

Jesus gave His life to pay for our sins. We follow in His example of self-sacrifice when we help others and when we give generously.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

I'd Rather Have Jesus

I'd Rather Have Jesus by George Beverly Shea, Rhea F. Miller

Music: © 1939. Renewed 1966 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

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Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Prepare to Listen *Peace be still and know that I am God* #1120

Peace be still and know that I am God.

Peace be still and know that I am.

Peace be still and know.

Peace be still.
Peace be.
Peace. Peace. Peace.

Sermon “An Introduction to the Brethren, Part 2”

Vow of Commitment (in unison)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Closing Hymn** *Brethren, come and claim a vision* to the tune of #521

Brethren, come and claim a vision by Rosanna Eller McFadden
to the tune: Come, thou fount (HWB #521)

Brethren, come and claim a vision and give witness in this place;
joined in faith by our decision to embody lives of grace.

Jesus’ followers, telling, giving, until all have seen and heard
by the manner of our living we are grounded in God’s Word.

In a world of fear and danger, our anxieties release;
May we meet both friend and stranger with a ministry of peace.
To the Spirit we surrender, put our trust in God alone;
and our ego and agenda in humility lay down.

When we recognize God’s glory shining in diversity,
we will see that each one’s story shapes our whole identity.
Love, in ever-widening circles, knows not gender, creed, or race;
but it holds us—brothers, sisters—like a father’s warm embrace.

Praise and thanks to our Creator for the goodness of the earth:
air and water, field and flower, all the creatures and their worth.
In your vineyard let us nourish, tend the good gifts in our care.
Let the fruit of justice flourish for our neighbors everywhere!

*** Benediction**

Go forth in peace, and be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the God who fills the hungry with good things fill us all with Christlike love and with a consuming hunger for justice in our land and in our world. Amen.

Postlude

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Pat Gangwer
Song Leader.....	Bob Gangwer
Children's Time	Sarah Beers
Special Music	David, Matt & Rhonda Whitten
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist	Ken Heatwole
Dir. of Technology & Media	Kevin Beers