



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



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

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) [wrcob@wrcob.org](mailto:wrcob@wrcob.org) [www.wrcob.org](http://www.wrcob.org)

August 29, 2021

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost



# Welcome and Announcements

## Prelude

### *Sweet By and By*

arr. Frank Breazeale

Sweet By and By arranged by Frank Breazeale  
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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

Based on Ephesians 2:17-20

We gather together today no longer strangers, but members of God's own family, brothers and sisters through Jesus Christ. Together, we are being built into a holy dwelling place where God lives by the Spirit.

### \* Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we are here today because your Son, Jesus Christ proclaimed peace to those who were far off and peace to those who are near. Through Christ, we have access to you, through the one Spirit. May our words and the meditations of each of our hearts be acceptable to you, Lord, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

### \* Opening Hymn

#### *For we are strangers no more*

# 322

For we are strangers no more by Kenneth I. Morse  
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#### *Refrain:*

*For we are strangers no more, but members of one family;  
strangers no more, but part of one humanity,  
strangers no more, we're neighbors to each other now;  
Strangers no more, we're sisters and we're brothers now.*

Come, walk with me, we'll praise the Lord together,  
as we join song to song and prayer to prayer.  
Come, take my hand, and we will work together by  
lifting all the burdens we can share. *[Refrain]*

Where diff'ring cultures meet we'll serve together.

Where hatred rages we will strive for peace.

Come, take my hand and we will pray together

that justice come and strife and warfare cease. *[Refrain]*

There is a love that binds the world together;

a love that seeks the last, the lost, the least.

One day that love will bring us all together

in Christ from South and North, from West and East. *[Refrain]*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### **Time with Our Children**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### **Confession and Pardon** (in unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **Moments of Silent Prayer**

**Pastor:** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People:** In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory be to God!

## **Communion and Blessing of the Bread**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**People:** **The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.**

## **Partaking of the Bread**

### **Blessing of the Cup**

**Pastor:** When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**People:** **The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.**

## **Partaking of the Cup**

### **Closing Words**

**Pastor:** And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People:** Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

**Song**

*Move in our midst* (verses 1-3)

# 4 | 8

"Move in our midst" by Kenneth I. Morse & Perry L. Huffaker  
Text & Music © 1950 Church of the Brethren General Board  
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Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God.  
Go with us down from thy holy hill.  
Walk with us through the storm and the calm.  
Spirit of God, go thou with us still.

Touch thou our hands to lead us a right.  
Guide us forever, show us thy way.  
Transform our darkness into thy light.  
Spirit of God, lead thou us today.

Strike from our feet the fetters that bind.  
Lift from our lives the weight of the wrong.  
Teach us to love with heart, soul, and mind.  
Spirit of God, thy love makes us strong.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Thoughts on Giving

Acts 4:32, 34-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they had was held in common. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

**Special Music**

*Interlude*

Jeff Peaks

## Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 2:17-20 (NRSV)

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

**Sermon**      “An Introduction to the Brethren, Part 4: Together”

## 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** (in unison)

Let us go now, empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together. Amen.

**Postlude**

*For Christ and the Church*

William Kirkpatrick

\* Please stand as able and led



- Ministers ..... All Members**
- Pastor ..... David Whitten
- Worship Leader..... Sarah Beers
- Song Leader ..... Bob Gangwer
- Flautist ..... Sarah Beers
- Guitarist ..... David Whitten
- Pianist ..... Bob Phillips
- Violinist ..... Bill Kinzie
- Director of Technology & Media..... Kevin Beers