



*"Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together."*



## West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 5, 2021

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

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*My Savior Leads Me*

arr. Shale Blake

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

adopted Carol Penner, [www.leadinginworship.com](http://www.leadinginworship.com)

In the glory of late summer, we come to worship reveling in the beauty of God's handiwork. We seek insight this morning into how the work of our hands becomes part of the work of God's hands. We join God in lifting the heavyhearted, comforting the sorrowful, and calming the anxious. We seek God's to fill us with the joy of our service and in our serving this morning. Let us pray.

### \* Opening Prayer

Carol Penner

Bless the tiny, baby hands. Bless the strong adult hands. Bless the hands that are folded in prayer. Bless the hands that are lifted in praise. Our hands do the work of your hands, O God our Creator. Amen.

### \* Opening Hymn                   *O God, our help in ages past*                   # 328

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;

under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure.  
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away.  
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

# **CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY**

## **Time with Our Children**

### **Congregational Prayer**

Carol Penner, [www.leadinginworship.com](http://www.leadinginworship.com)

God our Creator, thank you for giving us life and breath and work. You expect us to do what we can with what we have, to work with peace and patience, to balance busyness with rest, work with Sabbath. Give us healthy bodies, and the nourishment we need.

Help us to do our jobs without complaint, with all our strength and might. You see what we do, even when no one else is watching. Every day, in every task, give us wisdom to remember who we are, your children, your workers.

Spirit of God, thank you for your presence lifting our hearts, equipping us to fulfill our calling.

Empower us with just what we need; determination and cheerfulness for those with hard physical work, patience and compassion for those who deal with people, insight and skill for those who must solve complex problems, integrity and humbleness for all with power over others, eagerness and a keen mind for those who study.

Lighten our work with joy and humor. Breathe life into our community to provide support and encouragement to all who labor and are heavy-laden. Jesus, son of God, and of a carpenter, walk with us as we shoulder our work this week. The deep breath, the first step, the big push, all done in your name.

Help us to give and receive advice graciously and to leaven our day with words of encouragement for others. Fortify us to resist temptation, to reject laziness, and to go a second mile.

Lord of the working world, we labor for you. Amen.

1 Come set your rule, and reign  
in our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray.  
Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
like wildfire in our very souls.  
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.  
We are Your church. We need Your power in us.

2 We seek Your kingdom first.  
We hunger and we thirst.  
Refuse to waste our lives  
for You're our joy and prize.  
To see the captive hearts released,  
the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.  
We are Your church. We pray revive this earth.

Chorus:

Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.  
Show Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land.  
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.  
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

3 Unleash Your kingdom's power  
reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop  
your beauty changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this,  
awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.  
We are Your church. We are the hope on earth. (Chorus)

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## A Prayer on Giving

Carol Penner, [www.leadinginworship.com](http://www.leadinginworship.com)

We work for you, God, in whatever we do. Paid labor, volunteer work, our home life—all our time we spend for you. Thank you for jobs which provide us with an income or pensions that support us.

We share the fruit of our labor with you, knowing that you are the Great Provider. Use these offerings in your kingdom work, as you provide good news, healing and hope to all people. Amen.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Special Music

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

arr. Charles Callahan

### Scripture Lesson

Psalm 90:10, 12, 14, 16-17 (*NRSV*)

<sup>10</sup> The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

### Sermon

“Labor of Love”

# The Blessings of Hands

Carol Penner

Pastor: Bless the work of our hands, O God. Bless the hands that work the land; hands that move earth, plant seeds and harvest, hands with callouses and dirty fingernails, strong hands.

**People:** Bless the hands that use machines; hands that drive cars, trucks and forklifts, hands on computer keyboards, capable hands.

Pastor: Bless the hands that make things; hands that manufacture and create, working wood and metal and plastic, practical hands.

**People:** Bless the hands that clean; hands that wash, mop and scrub, hands that know what to do with soap, determined hands.

Pastor: Bless the hands that make music and art; hands that play instruments and hold paintbrushes, hands that are creative tools, artistic hands.

**People:** Bless the hands that care for people; hands that cook and feed, heal and nurture, hands with a gentle touch, loving hands.

Pastor: Bless the hands that are generous; hands that give away money and food, hands that are always trying to be empty, Christ-like hands.

**ALL:** Bless the tiny, baby hands. Bless the strong adult hands. Bless the hands that are folded in prayer. Bless the hands that are lifted in praise. Our hands do the work of your hands, O God our Creator. Amen.

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* **Closing Hymn** *God, Bless the Work Your People Do* #393 Voices Together

*God, Bless the Work Your People Do* by John Dalles & Amanda Husberg

Text © 2009 John A. Dalles

Music © 1996, 1998 Amanda Husberg, admin. Concordia Publishing House

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\* **Benediction**



# God, Bless the Work Your People Do 528

SARAH-ELIZABETH CMD

Capo 3: (D)

F

(F#m7)

Am7

(Bm)

Dm

(F#m)

Am

(Em7)

Gm7



1 God, bless the work your peo - ple do through-out each  
 2 For all who have no res - pite, God, from la - bor  
 3 We pray for those who can - not work, or seek for  
 4 As you a - chieved cre - a - tion's work, then rest - ed

(A)

C

(G)

Bb

(A7)

C7

(D)

F

(Bm)

Dm



work-ing day, the con - tri - bu - tions that they make, the  
 with - out ease, for those for whom their work is filled with  
 work in vain; great God, we pray your mer - cy shall en -  
 from your task, God, bless the work your peo - ple do, and

(Em)

Gm

(A7)

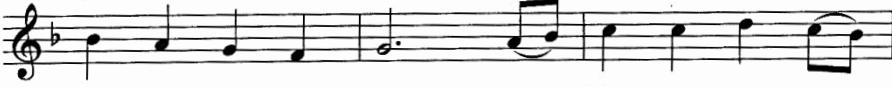
C7

(D)

F

(G)

Bb



tal - ents they dis - play. God, bless the work your  
 dan - ger or dis - ease, for all who la - bor  
 cour - age them, a - gain! We pray for those whose  
 call it good, we ask! Grant un - to each a

(D)

F

(Bm)

Dm

(Em7)

Gm7

(A)

C

(D)

F



peo - ple do, with minds and hands and hearts, to ben - e -  
 with - out gain, or have no rest this day, for all who  
 work is hard, on bod - y, spir - it, soul, the un - der -  
 day de - signed for wor - ship, joy, and rest; a Sab - bath

(F#m7)

Am7

(Bm)

Dm

(F#m)

Am

(Em)

Gm

(A)

C

(D)

F



fit the com - mon good, the sci - enc - es and arts.  
 la - bor with - out hope, O God, we hum - bly pray.  
 paid, un - der - em-ployed, who fill a vi - tal role.  
 time of ho - li - ness, in which they may be blessed.