



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



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

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November 7, 2021

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

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

J.S. Bach

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord,

People: **For God keeps faith with us forever.**

Leader: Praise our God who brings justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

People: **We will worship the Lord who lifts up those who are bowed down, and supports the orphan and widow.**

Leader: God will reign in mercy and righteousness for all generations.

People: **Let us praise the Lord and seek to honor God with our lives.**

### \* Hymn of Gathering

*Here in this place*

#6

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in - the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth.

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in - and hold us forever,  
gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## Children's Time

*(Afterwards children may leave for Children's Church)*

## Call to Prayer

1 Kings 19:3-4a (NIV)

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life.

## Prayer

Left: May we always remember the poor, the needy, the victims of oppression. They are God's children just as we are. God, grant us the strength to aid your poor. For this grace we pray.

*Right: Trustworthy God, may we deal with one another truthfully. Just as we owe you truth, so we owe it to one another. And because we hate to be deceived, may we never deceive our neighbor. For this grace we pray.*

Left: God of the poor, protect all workers who are being exploited. May we struggle for justice and the dignity of

all people who work, especially migrants and those who work long hours for little money. Watch over those who want to find employment but cannot because of their own struggles or history. For this we pray.

*Right: Loving God, may we be advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. Help us learn from them and appreciate their unique contributions to humankind. Wrap yourself around all those who feel they do not “fit in” and are often the targets of hate. For them we pray.*

*Left: God, our liberator, stop us from stooping to slander and lies, from gossip and half-truths. May we speak kindly, justly, carefully, and honestly. For this grace we pray.*

*Right: Most essentially, loving God, give us the courage to love all of our neighbors as ourselves and to love you with our whole being. For this grace we pray.*

## Hymn of Prayer

*Shepherd me, O God*

# 5 | 9

Refrain:

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *[Refrain]*
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth;  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *[Refrain]*
3. Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *[Refrain]*
4. You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. *[Refrain]*
5. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *[Refrain]*

# Thoughts on Appreciating

## Scripture Lesson

I Kings 18:1-15 (NIV)

### Elijah and Obadiah

18 After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.”<sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

Now the famine was severe in Samaria,<sup>3</sup> and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, his palace administrator. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord.<sup>4</sup> While Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.)

<sup>5</sup> Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grass to keep the horses and mules alive so we will not have to kill any of our animals.”<sup>6</sup> So they divided the land they were to cover, Ahab going in one direction and Obadiah in another.

<sup>7</sup> As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him, bowed down to the ground, and said, “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?”

<sup>8</sup> “Yes,” he replied. “Go tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”

<sup>9</sup> “What have I done wrong,” asked Obadiah, “that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to be put to death?”<sup>10</sup> As surely as the Lord your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you.<sup>11</sup> But now you tell me to go to my master and say, ‘Elijah is here.’<sup>12</sup> I don’t know where the Spirit of the Lord may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn’t find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the Lord since my youth.<sup>13</sup> Haven’t you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid a hundred of the Lord’s prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water.<sup>14</sup> And now you tell me to go to my master and say, ‘Elijah is here.’ He will kill me!”

<sup>15</sup> Elijah said, “As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today.”

**Special Music**

*On Eagle's Wings*

Michael Joncas

**Sermon**

**\* Closing Hymn**

*For all the saints* (vs. 1-3, 5)

#636

- 1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
     who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
     thy name, O Jesus, be forever bless'd.  
     Alleluia, alleluia!
- 2. Thou wast their rock, their refuge, and their might,  
     thou, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;  
     'mid gloom and doubt, their true and shining light.  
     Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3. Oh, may thy people, faithful, true, and bold,  
     fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
     and win, with them, the glorious crown of gold.  
     Alleluia, alleluia!
- 5. And when the strife is fierce, the suff'ring long,  
     steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
     and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
     Alleluia, alleluia!

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come, Come Ye Saints*

American folk tune

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor ..... David Whitten	Special Music ..... Bob Phillips
Guest Speaker ..... Terrie Glass	Flautist ..... Sarah Hartman
Song Leader .....	Organist/Pianist ..... Bob Phillips
Children's Time ..... Terrie Glass	Media & Tech Dir. .... Kevin Beers