



## West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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January 23, 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

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## Welcome and Announcements

Trio Prelude

*Come, Give Me Your Hand*

Scottish melody

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” As we gather to worship, may God, through Jesus teach us, challenge us, inspire us, and transform us, more and more into His likeness.

### \* Opening Prayer

Merciful and everlasting God, you have not spared your only Son, but delivered him up for all of us that he might bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed on him that we need not fear the power of any adversaries through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

### \* Opening Song

*To God be the glory*

# 102

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done,  
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain:*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!*

2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [*Refrain*]
3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
but purer, and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [*Refrain*]

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Congregational Prayer

#### Song

#### *Jesus Christ is waiting*

VT #287

*Jesus Christ is Waiting* (Noel Nouvelet) by Graham Maule, John L. Bell

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1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbor, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets;  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the kingdom's causes let me rage with you.
3. Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets;  
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.  
Where good conquers evil, let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets;  
no one is his neighbor, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

## Time with Our Children

*(afterwards the children may leave for Children's Church)*

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Thoughts on Giving

## We Spend It

Tithe.ly

Have you ever wondered what we do with the offering each week? We spend it. No, seriously, we do. We spend it on buying curriculum for Sunday school. We spend it on helping those in need through the food pantry and disaster ministries. We spend it on ensuring we have a safe, healthy environment in which to meet each week (and throughout the week). We spend it on spreading the gospel through online services, outreaches into underserved areas of our community, and discipleship classes here at the church.

Yes, we spend the money you give as your tithes and offerings. We take our responsibility seriously to be excellent stewards of the money entrusted to us. As you give your tithes and offerings, know that we don't take them for granted. We will use the money you're offering to God to honor Him, to spread the Good News, and to make disciples.

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

## Special Music

## *Pastorale*

George Blake

*Pastorale* by George Blake

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## Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-21 (*NRSV*)

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

# Song

## *He touched me*

William Gaither

*He Touched Me* by William Gaither

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1. Shackled by a heavy burden,  
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same.

*Refrain:*

*He touched me, Oh He touched me,  
And oh the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.*

2. Since I met this blessed Savior,  
Since He cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise Him,  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls. [*Refrain*]

# Sermon

“From Degenerate to Regenerate”

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \* Closing Hymn

*Lift high the cross*

# 3 2 1

*Lift High The Cross* (Crucifer) by George William Kitchin, Michael Robert Newbolt, Sydney Hugo Nicholson

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*Refrain:*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,  
draw all the world to seek you once again. [*Refrain*]
2. From north and south, from east and west, we raise  
in growing unison our song of praise. [*Refrain*]
3. Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
of him who saves our lives from death and hell. [*Refrain*]
4. Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease  
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. [*Refrain*]

**\* Benediction**

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Postlude**

*Exhaltation*

Robert Hughes

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Alyce Newman
Special Music .....	Bob Phillips
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist .....	Bob Phillips
Violinist .....	Bill Kinzie
Media & Technology Director .....	Kevin Beers