

West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

Welcome, Happy Morning

Frank Ritter

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart"

Open unto me, light for my darkness.

Open unto me, courage for my fear.

Open unto me, hope for my despair.

Open unto me, peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me, joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me, strength for my weakness.

Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness.

Open unto me, love for my hates.

Open unto me, Thy Self for myself.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Lift every voice and sing

579

1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,

let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died,
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Introduction of our Church Board and its Leadership Team

Jori Carter, Chair

Sandy Faw, Church Clerk

Janet Brunk, Vice Chair

Terrie Glass, Moderator

Jeff Goss

David Whitten, Pastor

Dolly Guyer

Kevin Beers, Tech/Media Director

Ann Andrus

Jackie Allgood, Hilltop Director

* Prayer of Commissioning

#965 Voices Together

Community: Empowering God, with your people throughout the ages, we call members of the church to develop gifts and skills for your service. Thank you for raising up these leaders among us. Fill them with the love of Christ and the church. Empower them with your Holy Spirit. Bless them with joy in the work of ministry.

Commissioned: We pray for wisdom, patience, and hope in this calling. May we use the authority entrusted to us with confidence and humility. May we grow into the mind and spirit of Christ through our service.

All: *For the gifts that the Spirit nurtures within us and the ministries to which we are called, thanks be to God! Amen.*

Song

Shepherd me, O God (verses 1-3)

#519

*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]*

Time with Our Children

(afterwards the children may leave for Children's Time)

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly, adapted

Stewardship ... that's not a word we hear very often, but it's an important one. Let's consider what it means. According to Dictionary.com, stewardship is "the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving." When we think of things "worth caring for and preserving," what does that bring to mind? A home, the church building, your car, etc.? What about your finances? That's certainly something to care for and preserve, right? One way we steward our finances is by deliberately deciding how to use the money we have. Whether you have \$10 or \$10,000 in your bank account right now, stewarding that money involves deciding what to do with it. Do you save it, spend it, or invest it? If you spend it ... what do you spend it on? God expects us to put Him first. As we decide what to do with the money He's enabled us to earn, it only makes sense to use that money in a way that honors Him. One way to do that is through tithing ... essentially giving back to God some of what He's entrusted to us.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Deep River

arr. Guy Maier

Deep River, my home is over Jordan.

Deep River, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go to the gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace.

Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Scripture Lesson

John 10:1-8 (NRSV)

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

Song *Gentle shepherd, come and lead us* # 3 5 2

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
for we need you to help us find our way.
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,
for we need your strength from day to day.
There's no other we can turn to
who can help us face another day.
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
for we need to you to help us find our way.

Sermon “They Hear His Voice”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Closing Hymn** *Savior, like a shepherd lead us* # 3 5 5

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, do thou befriend us,
 be the guardian of our way.
 Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
 seek us when we go astray.
 Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Early let us seek thy favor,
 early let us do thy will.
 Blessed Lord and only Savior,
 with thy love our spirits fill.
 Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! thou hast loved us, love us still.
 Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! thou hast loved us, love us still.

*** Benediction**

Postlude

The Lily Of The Valley

English melody






* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Thoko Lipato
Special Music	Bob Phillips
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Organist/Pianist.....	Bob Phillips
Violinist	Bill Kinzie
Media & Technology Dir.	Kevin Beers

WHAT'S Happening?

A report from your Leadership Team (Jori, Janet, Dolly, Ann, and Jeff)

-  Continued progress is being made in securing all the necessary permits, terminating all utilities lines, and salvaging interior items (doors, hardware, floors, banister, mantle, and cast-iron heating unit) as we move closer to the planned demolition of the “White Building.”
-  In preparation for upcoming expenses, and to comply with our constitution and by-laws, the Leadership Team has approved some “shifting” of funds from various accounts into our Maintenance Reserve Fund to be used for the care and maintenance of our property. ** BTW - if you notice anything that needs to be evaluated or possibly repaired, please contact Jeff Goss or any member of the Leadership Team.*
-  As we transition into our new leadership structure, we will be preparing for the first of several Congregational Conversation Meetings (CCM). These meetings will be a time of idea sharing, planning, and visioning. The first scheduled meeting is Sunday, March 27th, 2022. *Mark your calendar and plan to attend.*
-  The Music and Worship Committee, along with our Director of Children and Youth Ministries, is busy planning what is sure to be a wonderful and meaningful Season of Lent. Make sure to pay attention to the bulletin, newsletter, and website for dates and times of events. **If you are interested in lending a hand in the planning and preparation process, please reach out to a member of the Committee (Bob Gangwer, Barbara Beers, Alyce Newman, or Sarah Beers).*
-  What would YOU like to see HAPPENING? *Share your ideas here.*
