



THIRD
Sunday
OF LENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org



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March 20, 2022

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Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

Seek Ye The Lord

Donald Mason

based on Isaiah 55: 6-13

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near... return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy.

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Invitation to Worship

We gather in this season of Lent, a season calling for relinquishing futile ways and opening to a new spring time in life, remembering the ancient prophet Isaiah. He envisioned the Lord offering water to the thirsty and food to the poor. But to those needy in soul, he believed God offers more, not just satisfying wine and milk, but an everlasting covenant sealed with mercy, offered through faith. This covenant may be beyond our thoughts and higher than our ways, but it can redeem much in our world. We gather amid our hunger and thirst, to partake of God's grace, a grace that can bring blessing to many.

* Prayer of Gathering

based on Psalm 63:1-8

One: O God, we long for you with our whole being.

All: **In this sanctuary, and in every place of life, your constant love redeems our sometimes worn out lives.**

One: We feast in the satisfaction of being sheltered in your care.

All: **We cling to you in faith, and join ourselves to you in the call to peace. Amen.**

* Hymn

O God, in restless living

5 5 7

- 1) God in restless living, we lose our spirit's peace.
Calm our unwise confusion, bid thou our clamor cease.
Let anxious hearts grow quiet, like pools at evening still,
till thy reflected heavens all our spirits fill.
- 2) Teach us, beyond our striving, the rich rewards of rest.
Who does not live serenely is never deeply bless'd.
O tranquil, radiant Sunlight, bring thou our lives to flow'r,
less wearied with our effort, more aware of pow'r.
- 3) Receptive make our spirits, our need is to be still.
As dawn fades flick'ring candle, so dim our anxious will.
Reveal thy radiance through us, then ample strength release.
Not ours, but thine the triumph in the pow'r of peace.
- 4) We grow not wise by struggling, we gain but things by strain.
We cease to water gardens, when comes thy plenteous rain.
O, beautify our spirits in restfulness from strife,
enrich our souls in secret with abundant life.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Call to Prayer *Lord, please make me a sanctuary* (2x) tune of # 1128

Lord, please make me a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
and with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Congregational Prayer

adapted from *Forty New O Antiphons One Winter* by Diane Tucker

O Safe One, Sure One, Refuge from the din. We find ourselves immersed in every day, rising from within or without; the world's deafening, distracting cries. The needs we cannot meet, the mess beyond us, the puzzle and the pains we cannot solve, these we bring in weakness to your Strength. Your loud and lavish love

embraces, not just the smooth, vocal, outgoing, and confident; but also the awkward, shy, scared, and socially inept. Open our eyes to the outright beauties, but also to the silent beauties of all humans, creatures, and worlds. May we not miss faithful hearts among us, some full of words, but struggling with love; others not so full of words, but big with love. May we never idolize exalted speech. Bless our stuttering wordlessness, and shiver our souls into faith. Amen.

Hymn

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

#71

- 1) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!
- 2) All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3) Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.
- 4) Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began.

Love divine is reigning o'er us,
leading us with mercy's hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music lifts us sunward,
in the triumph song of life!

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

based on I Corinthians 10:1-13

Like the ancient Jews, we often find ourselves wandering through the wilderness experiences of life. We find ourselves tested, and at times influenced by forces that diminish us. But just as God gave ancient people manna in the morning and water from a rock, God gives us the bread and water of faith in a love shown in Jesus. We are called to be bearers of that love, in our giving and in our living.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. R. W. Thygerson

Scripture Lesson

Romans 1:1-7, 13-17 (GNB)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach his Good News. The Good news was promised long ago by God through prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death.

Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. This also includes you who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ. And so I write to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be God's own

people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

You must remember, my friends, that many times I planned to visit you, but something has always kept me from doing so. I want to win converts among you also, as I have among other Gentiles. For I have an obligation to all peoples, to the civilized and to the savage, to the educated and to the ignorant. So then, I am eager to preach the Good News to you also who live in Rome. I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God's power to save all who believe, first the Jews and also the Gentiles. For the gospels reveals how God puts people right with the Divine self: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live."

Sermon

"Faith 101"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** Hymn**

In the cross of Christ I glory

5 6 6

- 1) In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'r the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story,
gathers round its head sublime.
- 2) When the woes of life o'er take me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo! it glows with peace and joy
- 3) When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming,
joys that through all time abide.
- 4) Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified.

Peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through the time abide.

* **Benediction**

based on Luke 13:1-9

O God, in a world where people lose lives because of misguided leaders, violence, and disasters, we believe in your love, and the holy kinship that flows from it. Through faith, may we extend that kinship to all. Amen.

Postlude

Blessed Redeemer/O How Sweet

Loes/Doane

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Guest Speaker	David Brunk
Worship Leader	Carol Goss
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Bob Phillips
Organist/Pianist	Bob Phillips
Violinist	Bill Kinzie
Media & Technology Dir.....	Kevin Beers