



## West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

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April 24, 2022

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter

## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Duet

*Adagio*

J.S. Bach

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

Nancy Townley

May the Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. May Easter give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps.

### \* Opening Prayer

#876 Voices Together

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. Amen.

### \* Opening Hymn

*Joys are flowing like a river (vv. 1-3)*

# 301

1) Joys are flowing like a river  
since the Comforter has come,  
who abides with us forever,  
makes the trusting heart a home.

*Refrain:*

Blessed quietness, holy quietness --  
what assurance in my soul!

On the stormy sea speaking peace to me --  
how the billows cease to roll!

- 2) Bringing life and health and gladness  
all around, this heav'nly Guest  
banished unbelief and sadness,  
changed our weariness to rest. *[Refrain]*
- 3) Like the rain that falls from the heaven,  
like the sunlight from the sky,  
so the Holy Ghost is given,  
coming on us from on high. *[Refrain]*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### A Time of Anointing

#### Congregational Prayer

In the evening when the disciples meet  
Frightened behind locked doors  
You come to them with words of peace.  
For wicked plots have failed,  
And the cruelty of the world has come to nothing,  
And the betrayal and the denial of friends have not prevailed.

Life-giving God,  
We give you thanks  
For Jesus has risen.  
He comes to us with words of peace

Come to us today.  
In government rooms where politicians meet  
In city board rooms where executives plan,  
In court rooms where lawyers debate,  
Come with words of peace.

In hospital rooms where people are waiting,  
In prison cells where people are afraid

In homes where people struggle to make ends meet,  
Come with words of peace.

Come to us whenever we are afraid  
Whenever we are grieving  
Come to us now we pray in silence  
For those we care for and are worried about...  
Despite the strong and solid doors we lock  
To protect ourselves  
To shut out the world  
Come to us with words of peace.

This Easter breathe on us again  
With your Spirit  
For you have overcome evil  
And wicked plots fail  
And the cruelty of the world comes to nothing  
And the betrayal and denial of friends do not prevail.

Renew us in the power of your Spirit  
That we may open the doors  
And go out into the world  
To bring words of peace to the people we meet.  
Renew us in the power of your Spirit  
That we may have life in your name  
And go wherever you send us  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Song

### *10,000 Reasons*

#111 Voices Together

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Matt Redman

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*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul worships your holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.*

- 1) The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes. [*Refrain*]

- 2) You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.  
your name is great and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *[Refrain]*
- 3) And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come,  
still, my soul will sing your praise unending  
ten thousand years and then forevermore! *[Refrain]*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul worships your holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name,  
worship Your Holy name; worship Your Holy name.*

## Time with Our Children

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Thoughts on Giving

Steve Ganger

The Gospel's message is built upon the upside-down kingdom. So much of what Jesus said, who he was, and what he did was completely antithetical to earthly expectations of more. Jesus was the Lord of less.

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

## Special Music

*Be Still and Know*

C.P. Johnson

## Scripture Lesson

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them

and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

### **Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

### **The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **Song**

*Ask the Complicated Questions*

#440 Voices Together

To the tune of #388 *Grant, us Lord, the grace*

- 1) Ask the complicated questions,  
do not fear to be found out;  
for our God makes strong our weakness,  
forging faith in fires of doubt.

- 2) Seek the disconcerting answers,  
follow where the Spirit blows;  
test competing truths for wisdom,  
for in tension new life grows.
- 3) Knock on doors of new ideas,  
test assumptions long grown stale;  
for Christ calls from shores of wonder,  
daring us to try and fail.
- 4) For in struggle we discover  
truth both simple and profound;  
in the knocking, asking, seeking,  
we are opened, answered, found.

**Sermon**                      “Unlocking Our Upper Rooms”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

**\* Closing Hymn**

*When peace like a river*

# 3 3 6

- 1) When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain:*

*It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul),  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

- 2) Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this bless’d assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. *[Refrain]*
- 3) Redeemed! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
my sin – not in part, but the whole –  
is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *[Refrain]*

- 4) And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
 the trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,  
 “Even so,” it is well with my soul. *[Refrain]*

**\* Benediction** (in unison)

**Jesus, we dare to believe in the things we cannot see:  
 In your love for us  
 In your love for those around us  
 In the hope of eternity.  
 We dare to believe that another world is possible  
 That suffering can end  
 That we can play a part  
 In the kingdom to come.  
 We dare to believe in heaven on earth  
 In the light breaking through  
 In justice made new  
 In your love for us.**

**Postlude**

*New Born Again*

arr. Mary McDonald

*New Born Again* by Mary McDonald

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I've found free grace and dying love I'm new born again.  
 I know my lord has set me free I'm new born again.  
 My Savior died for you and me I'm new born again  
 Been longtime talking 'bout trials here I'm new born again.

\* Please stand as able and led



**Ministers** ..... **All Members**

Pastor ..... David Whitten  
 Worship Leader..... Susan Robertson  
 Song Leader ..... Carol Goss  
 Children's Time..... Sarah Hartman  
 Special Music..... Bob Phillips

Flautist ..... Sarah Hartman  
 Guitarist ..... David Whitten  
 Pianist ..... Bob Phillips  
 Violinist ..... Bill Kinzie  
 Production Assistant ..... Dustin Dedrick