



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



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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June 19, 2022

Father's Day

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## Welcome and Announcements

### Celebrating Juneteenth

Mother to Son

Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now—  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

**Organ Prelude** *Father of Heaven, Whose Love Profound*

John Duro

# GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

## \* Call to Worship

umcdiscipleship.org

One: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

Many: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love --  
too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

One: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

Many: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces  
our fathers left behind.

One: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of  
relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember what it means to  
have a father or be a father, we recognize the  
importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge  
as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers  
among us so that they will manifest the love of God  
in all that they do.

## \* Opening Prayer

## \* Opening Hymn

*This is my Father's world*

# 154

1. This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas-- his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev'rywhere.
3. This is my Father's world. Oh let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done.  
Jesus who dies shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.

# CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

## Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 23:23-25 (CEV)

- <sup>23</sup> Invest in truth and wisdom,  
discipline and good sense,  
and don't part with them.
- <sup>24</sup> Make your father truly happy  
by living right and showing  
sound judgment.
- <sup>25</sup> Make your parents proud,  
especially your mother.

## Time with Our Children

### Tribute to Our Fathers

### Litany of Recognition for Father's Day

- One: On this day we recognize our fathers and stepfathers, those who have nurtured and guided us in our lives.
- Many: **We thank You, O God, for those who have been fathers to us.**
- One: We honor our grandfathers, our uncles and brothers, those who have demonstrated love and care to us in our lives.
- Many: **We thank You, O God, for those who have been like fathers to us.**
- One: We appreciate our teachers, leaders and pastors, who have been both male and female, but we especially honor those who have extended fatherly tenderness and love in our lives in our past and present.
- Many: **We thank You, O God, for those who have fulfilled a fatherly role in our lives.**
- One: Loving God, You have been both Mother and Father to us. Abba, Father, we remember how Jesus called out to You on earth, recognizing that You are closer

to us than our earthly parents. Your love and care for us are felt in the ways we are loved and cared for by others. We thank You for all the male figures in our lives who have shared Your love with us. We ask that You guide and nurture new fathers and fathers-to-be. We seek Your forgiveness for fathers who have fallen short, for models of fatherhood that were limiting rather than embracing, for that is not Your model. You are our ever-loving Parent, Father of us all. Grant Your wisdom to all fathers and fatherly figures to love their children as You have loved Your children.

**Many: We thank You, O God, for fatherhood and motherhood, for the blessing of parents in our lives.**

**One:** Abba, Father, we pray with those who are mourning the loss of fathers today, and for those whose fathers were absent or abusive. Ease their pain on this day, loving God. May they know Your embrace, and that You are more than Father or Mother to us— You are the all-loving, all-caring Parent, Creator of heaven and earth, who knows the hairs on our heads.

**Many: We thank You, O God, that You are always with us, that You will never leave us or forsake us.**

**One:** We thank You for this day, and ask that You bless all of Your children with Your love, as a wonderful father loves their child.

**Many: Amen.**

## Hymn

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind*

# 5 2 3

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways.  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper rev'ence, praise.
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,

let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love;
4. Deep thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease.  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm.  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Thoughts on Giving

God celebrates when one of God's children is found because no one is worthless to God. May God give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul. May our offering reflect the love of Christ to all.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Special Music

*Of The Father's Love Begotten*

arr. Mark Hayes

Of the Father's love begotten 'ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he  
Of things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father and O Holy Ghost to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore.

## Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:11-23 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup> “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

<sup>20</sup> “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

**Sermon**

“The Foolishness of the Father’s Love”

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

**\* Closing Hymn**

*There’s a wideness in God’s mercy*

# 145

1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.  
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.
3. But we make God’s love too narrow by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
4. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
5. If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God’s word,  
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

**\* Benediction**

**Piano Postlude**

*God, The Omnipotent*

Alexis Lvov

God the Almighty One! Man hath defied Thee,  
 Yet to eternity standeth Thy Word;  
 Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee;  
 Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

\* Please stand as able and led



Ministers.....All Members  
 Pastor ..... David Whitten  
 Worship Leader...Freda Wilkens  
 Special Music..... Bob Phillips

Organist/Pianist .... Bob Phillips  
 Flautist.....Sarah Hartman  
 Violinist..... Bill Kinzie  
 Media & Tech Dir ...Kevin Beers