



*"Continuing the work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together."*



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 11, 2022

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

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Welcome to worship and Christian education, a time to reconnect and form new connections. May the Lord enrich our time together.

## Welcome

### Organ Prelude

### *Recitative and Choral*

Walker Baylor

*God of Our Fathers* by David Paxton, George William Warren  
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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

Our God is a God of promise. God set a rainbow in the sky to remind us that God will never again forsake creation. May God make us ever mindful of the promise, so that we might honor our covenant with God through Jesus Christ.

### \* Opening Prayer

God of constancy, we give thanks for your covenant with us shown forth in the rainbow of hope. Give us space to reflect, time to learn, and confidence to work for a more just and fair time when the whole world can unite within your love. Now and forever. Amen

### \* Opening Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision* (vv. 1-2, 4)

# 549 VT

#### Verse 1:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Verse 2:

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.  
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Verse 4:

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 6:5-22 (CEV)

- <sup>5</sup> The Lord saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. <sup>6</sup> He was sorry that he had made them, <sup>7</sup> and he said, "I'm going to destroy every person on earth! I'll even wipe out animals, birds, and reptiles. I'm sorry I ever made them."
- <sup>8</sup> But the Lord was pleased with Noah, <sup>9</sup> and this is the story about him. Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God. <sup>10</sup> He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- <sup>11-12</sup> God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent. <sup>13</sup> So he told Noah: Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. <sup>14</sup> Get some good lumber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. <sup>15</sup> Make it 133 meters long, 22 meters wide, and 13 meters high. <sup>16</sup> Build a roof on the boat and leave a space of about 44 centimeters between the roof and the sides. Make the boat three stories high and put a door on one side.
- <sup>17</sup> I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. <sup>18</sup> But I solemnly promise

that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat.

<sup>19-20</sup> Take into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, as well as a male and a female of every reptile. I don't want them to be destroyed. <sup>21</sup> Store up enough food both for yourself and for them.

<sup>22</sup> Noah did everything God told him to do.

## Song

### *Lord, I Need You*

Matt Maher

*Lord, I Need You* by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher

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Lord, I come, I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
Without You I fall apart  
You're the One that guides my heart

#### *Refrain:*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You  
Every hour I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You*

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
Where You are, Lord, I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

#### *Refrain*

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

#### *Refrain*

You're my one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

**Time with our Children** (afterwards children go to Children's Church)

## Pastoral Prayer

Rabbi Harold Kushner, 2003

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect. Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly, so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color. Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness, so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors. Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. Amen.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Prayer for Giving

<http://thebillabong.info/>

Covenant-keeping God, whose promise is rock solid; we offer our lives and these signs of our daily living not simply that bread might fill empty stomachs, but that, through the working of your Holy Spirit, empty lives may be filled, friendless, lonely lives find intimacy, depressed lives given hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Special Music

*Where He Leads Me*

J. S. Norris

### Scripture Lesson

Genesis 9:1-11 (CEV)

#### God's Promise to Noah

9 God said to Noah and his sons: I am giving you my blessing. Have a lot of children and grandchildren, so people will live everywhere on this earth.<sup>2</sup> All animals, birds, reptiles, and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them under your control,<sup>3</sup> and I have given them to you for food. From now on, you may eat them,

as well as the green plants that you have always eaten. <sup>4</sup> But life is in the blood, and you must not eat any meat that still has blood in it. <sup>5-6</sup> I created humans to be like me, and I will punish any animal or person that takes a human life. If an animal kills someone, that animal must die. And if a person takes the life of another, that person must be put to death.

<sup>7</sup> I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth.

<sup>8</sup> Again, God said to Noah and his sons: <sup>9</sup> I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. <sup>10</sup> This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat.

<sup>11</sup> I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood.

**Sermon**                      “Noah and the Rest of the Story”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

\* **Closing Hymn**                      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*                      # 419 VT

Verse 1:

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2:

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain*

*Verse 3:*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain*

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Faith of Our Fathers*

James Walton

Faith of our fathers! We will strive to win all nations unto thee.  
And through the truth that comes from God mankind shall then be truly free.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife,  
And preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! we will be true to thee till death.

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	June Diehl
Children’s Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist .....	Bob Phillips
Violinist .....	Bill Kinzie
Media & Tech Director .....	Kevin Beers

