







# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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January 22, 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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## Welcome

## Prelude

### *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Graham Kendrick

*Shine, Jesus, Shine* by Graham Kendrick  
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*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire;  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light*

*Lord, the light of your love is shining.  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.*

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

## Call to Worship

<http://www.caldwellumc.org/>

- One: If the human body, body of blood and muscle,  
is to live, it needs salt.
- Many: **If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice,  
is to live, it needs us!**
- One: If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming,  
is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.
- Many: **If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish,  
it needs the Spirit's light!**
- One: Jesus says we are salt of the earth,  
light of the world.
- Many: **Our faith, our love, our hope —  
essential as salt and light.**

Verse 1:

You are salt for the earth, O people,  
 salt for the kingdom of God!  
 Share the flavor of life, O people:  
 life in the kingdom of God!

*Refrain:*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,  
 bring forth the kingdom of peace.  
 Bring forth the kingdom of justice,  
 bring forth the city of God!*

Verse 2:

You are a light on the hill, O people,  
 light for the city of God!  
 Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
 shine for the kingdom of God!

*Refrain***Call to Worship** (continued)

One: But if salt isn't salty?

Many: **It isn't what it's meant to be.**

One: And if a light doesn't shine?

Many: **It isn't what it's meant to be.**

One: Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.  
 Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

Many: **We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a  
 welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a  
 justice-making people, giving glory to God!**

**Opening Prayer**

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

\* Hymn

*You Are Salt for the Earth* (vs. 3-4)

# 297 VT

Verse 3:

You are a seed of the Word, O people,  
bring forth the kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
grow in the kingdom of God!

*Refrain:*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the kingdom of peace.  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the city of God!*

Verse 4:

We are a bless'd and a pilgrim people,  
bound for the kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
love is the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

**Time with our Children** (after, children under 6 can go to the nursery)

\* Hymn

*Ancient Words*

Lynn DeShazo

*Ancient Words* by Lynn DeShazo

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Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.

*Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world.  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

*Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

## Congregational Prayer

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

**Special Music**

*Bethany*

arr. Rob Perry

**Thoughts on Giving**

C. S. Lewis

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if your expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.

There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

## Hymn

### *Build Your Kingdom Here*

# 393 VT

*Build Your Kingdom Here* by Rend Collective (Ireland)  
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#### Verse 1:

Come set your rule, and reign in our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,  
like wildfire in our very souls;  
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.  
We are your church; we need your pow'r in us.

#### Verse 2:

We seek your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;  
refuse to waste our lives, for you're our joy and prize.  
To see the captives' hearts released,  
the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace,  
we lay down our lives for heaven's cause.  
We are your church; we pray, revive this earth.

#### *Refrain:*

*Build your kingdom here. Let the evil fear.  
Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.  
Set your church on fire. Win your people back.  
Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!*

#### Verse 3:

Unleash your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop your beauty, changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this;  
awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.  
We are your church; we are the hope on earth.

*Refrain (2x)*

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

## Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5:1-20 (NRSVUE)

### The Beatitudes

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

## The Law and the Prophets

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Sermon**      “The Present Does Not Define Your Future!”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

\* **Hymn**

*Beauty for Brokenness*

# 712 VT

*Beauty for Brokenness* by Graham Kendrick

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Verse 1:

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair—  
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase.

Verse 2:

Shelter for the fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the artisans, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can’t speak.

*Refrain:*

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray.  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Verse 3:

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Verse 4:

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans, and streams,  
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need. *Refrain*

Verse 5:

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation, and bring you their praise. *Refrain*

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Maestoso*

Caesar Franc

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader.....	Freda Wilkins
Children’s Time.....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music.....	Bob Phillips
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist .....	Bob Phillips
Technology Assistant.....	Dustin Dedrick