



*The Lord said,
"Here is a
place near me*

*where you will stand
beside the rock.*



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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February 5, 2023

Communion Sunday

Welcome

Prelude

Hiding in Thee

arr. Eloise Hynes

*O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly;
How often, when trials like sea billows roll,
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.
Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,
Thou blessed Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.*

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Call to Worship

883 VT

Sing and sing. And when you cannot raise a note of song, the rocks will cry out. And when the echoing stones go still, in the dangerous crevice that is your heart, if you lie still, there remains an altar, a way to enter a terrible holiness, a lush and delicate calm.

Opening Prayer

879 VT

Life-giving God, may your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us and within us. Come alive in our words and actions as we lead in worship. To you alone belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now and to the end of time. Amen.

* Hymn

Here in This Place

10 VT

Verse 1:

Here in this place, the new light is streaming;
now are the shadows vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Verse 2:

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Verse 3:

Here we will take the wine of compassion;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here we become the people you fashion:
children of God, to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine ever flowing,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and guide us in growing
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Verse 4:

Not just in buildings, dim and confining;
not in some heaven, lightyears away:
here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the dawning and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children under 5 go to Nursery Care)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:21-23 (CEB)

²¹ The Lord said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. ²² As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. ²³ Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible."

Invitation to Communion

936 VT

At the table of Christ, we eat this bread and drink this cup to remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, to be united with Christ and with one another as the church, and to look toward a time when all will be one.

As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, Jesus Christ is present with us and we are empowered by the Spirit to follow Jesus' way of love as the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the life of the world.

Communion

941 VT

One: O God, Ancient of Days, your love brought galaxies into being, summoned water and sky, earth and all creatures, and made us in your image. Through the ages you have cared for all you created. When we wandered, you called us to return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent us the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to teach the law of love. He lived what he taught and loved his enemies to the end. In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us. Send your Spirit upon us so that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can live, conformed to Christ, who taught us to pray...

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

One: Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “When you share bread together, remember me.”

All: Blessed are you, abundant God, for you made bread to strengthen us; you gave us this bread as a sign of your body. Let our sharing be a taste of the bread of heaven that feeds the world. Amen.

(The bread is distributed.)

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Participants may eat together.)

One: Jesus took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant. When you drink it together, remember me.”

All: Blessed are you, bountiful God, for you made the fruit of the vine to nourish us; you gave us this cup as a sign of your blood. Let our sharing be a taste of the wine we shall drink in your joyful feast. Amen.

(The cup is distributed.)

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Participants may drink together.)

Communion Prayer

942 VT

Blessed are you, Eternal God; through this holy meal you have joined us to yourself and to one another. Blessed are you, Incarnate God; you have put your life into our hands; now we

put our lives into yours. Blessed are you, Breath of God; as we go forth, set us free to follow where you lead. Amen.

* **Doxology**

7 1 B VT

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Rock of Ages

arr. Sydney Richardson

Thoughts on Giving

1 0 1 7 VT

God of life, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts and open hands. Amen.

Song

A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus

6 2 6 VT

Verse 1:

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
a wonderful Savior to me.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
where rivers of pleasure I see.

*Refrain: He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
that shadows a dry, thirsty land.*

*He hideth my life in the depths of his love,
and covers me there with his hand,
and covers me there with his hand.*

Verse 2:

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord;
he taketh my burden away.
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved;
he giveth me strength as my day.

Refrain

Verse 3:

With numberless blessings each moment he crowns,
and filled with his fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, "Oh, glory to God
for such a Redeemer as mine!"

Refrain

Verse 4:

When clothed in his brightness, transported I rise
to meet him in clouds of the sky,
his perfect salvation, his wonderful love,
I'll shout with the millions on high.

Refrain

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 7:21-29 (NRSVUE)

Concerning Self-Deception

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.'

Hearers and Doers

²⁴ "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on

them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

Sermon

“Building on the Rock”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* Hymn

My Hope Is Built

62 | VT

Verse 1:

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

Verse 2:

In ev’ry rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Not earth, nor hell, my soul can move;
I rest upon unchanging love.
I trust his righteous character,
his counsel, promise, and his pow’r.

Refrain

Verse 4:

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,

dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Solid Rock

arr. Carey McCoy

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Barbara Beers
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music.....	Bob Phillips
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist	Bob Phillips
Tech & Media Director.....	Kevin Beers