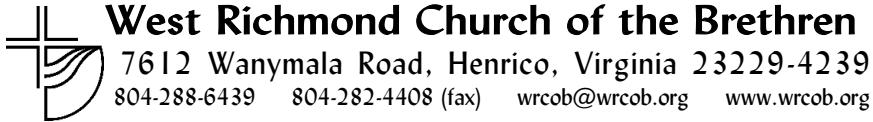


THE
UNFOLDING
OF YOUR
WORDS
GIVES LIGHT.

PSALM 119:130



West Richmond Church of the Brethren
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February 12, 2023

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome

Prelude

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child

arr. David Paxton

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child by David Paxton
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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Our sovereign God, Jesus Christ has set your holy reign upon this earth and within your people. Let its coming be like the mustard seed that grows into greatness, and like the leaven that mixes with the grain until the whole becomes greater, to the praise of the triune God, who lives forevermore.

* Opening Prayer

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-or17cs.php>

Dear Lord God, we thank you for mustard seed and for the wonders of yeast and for how these things teach us about your love. Lord, plant your seed into our lives, help us work your yeast into our hearts that wonderful things may happen. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

* Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People (vv. 1-3)

123 VT

Verse 1:

Come, ye thankful people come!
Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker, doth provide

for our need to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come.
Raise the song of harvest home.

Verse 2:

All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto God's praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
God of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Verse 3:

For our God again shall come,
and shall take the harvest home,
from the field shall in that day
all offenses cast away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in God's garner evermore.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children over 5 go to Children's Church)

Song	<i>Thy Word Is a Lamp</i>	# 398 VT
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Thy Word Is a Lamp by Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith

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Refrain:

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

Verse 1:

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

Verse 2:

I will not forget your love for me, and yet
my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side;
I will love you to the end.

Refrain

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 119:129-136 (*NRSVUE*)

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts
understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ With open mouth I pant, because I long for your
commandments.

¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward
those who love your name.

¹³³ Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let
iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your
precepts.

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your
statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Congregational Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Thoughts on Giving

Billy Graham

A checkbook (money app, online banking, etc.) is a theological statement. It tells you who and what you worship.

Song

We Are One in the Spirit

387 VT

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love by Peter Scholtes

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Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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Verse 1:

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Verse 2:

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Verse 3:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
we will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:24-43 (*NRSVUE*)

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the

wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The Parable of the Yeast

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

The Use of Parables

³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.”

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Sermon

"Sinners or Saints?"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

Come and See

282 VT

Verse 1:

"Come and see, come and see,
I am the way and the truth," said he.
"Follow me, follow me,
come as a child, O come and see."

Verse 2:

Kyrie, Kyrie,
Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe,
Christe eleison.

Verse 3:

Kyrie, Kyrie,
Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe,
Christe eleison.

Descant, verse 3:

Christe, Christe,
adoramus te.
Alleluia,
Kyrie eleison.

* Benediction

Postlude

I Love Thy Kingdom Lord

Mason/Dwight

*I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blessed redeemer saved with his own precious blood.*

*I love thy church, O God; her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.*

*Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.*

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers **All Members**

Pastor.....David Whitten

Flautist Sarah Hartman

Worship Leader.....David Brunk

Guitarist David Whitten

Children's Time Sarah Hartman

Pianist/Organist Bob Phillips

Special Music....Travis & Anna Williams

Dir. of Tech & Media..... Kevin Beers