



*Second Sunday in Lent:
Courage*



Open Our Eyes, Lord
John 9:40



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Prelude

Meditation on "Penitence"

David Paxton

Meditation on "Penitence" by David Paxton, Spencer Lane
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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

based on Genesis 12:1-4a

One: We have gathered together—all of us from some other place.

Many: We come from different homes, and other towns or cities or counties.

One: God calls people from every tribe and nation, and gathers us in and sends us out.

Many: We are called to be a blessing; to be used by God to be a blessing to others.

ALL: *Give us the courage to bless all the families of the earth.*

* Opening Prayer

God of all nations: As you sent Abram from his father's house, help us to listen for your leading. We proclaim that you are everywhere, in all places, and with all people. Give us the courage to listen to those we do not know, to hear testimony we have not understood, and to receive blessing through the lives of those whom we have not recognized. Open our ears and teach us to listen. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Refrain:

*Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

Verse 1

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

Verse 2

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness.
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

Verse 3

I am lost if you take your hand from me.
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children under 5 go to nursery care)

Song

Lord, I Need You

155 VT

Lord, I Need You by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher
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Verse 1:

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Refrain: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Ev'ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.*

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

Refrain

Bridge:

So, teach my song to rise to you
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

Refrain

Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 121 Nan C. Merrill 2007

Where does our help come from? Our help comes from the creator of heaven and earth. Strengthen and uphold us, You, who watch over the nations.

Forgive us when we have turned away from your people; When we have let ignorance or fear block the flow of blessing. Keep our feet on paths of righteousness; Be our sun by day and our moon by night; Keep us from evil thoughts and actions, against You and against the people You love. Keep our going out and our coming in, Now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

O Rest in the Lord

Mendelssohn

A Giving Prayer

1020 VT

God of extravagant mercy, with hands outstretched you have poured out wonder and pleasure and delight, goodness and beauty

and bounty. So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and ugly and impoverished, trivial and wretched and tyrannical, in our world and in ourselves—that we, too, may be poured out for the world. Amen.

Song

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

306 VT

Verse 1:

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Verse 2:

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Verse 3:

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-21 (NRSVUE)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be

born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter

the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

606 VT

Verse 1:

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed till I want no more, (want no more.)
feed till I want no more.

Verse 2:

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing waters flow.
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield, (strength and shield.)
be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3:

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, (give to thee.)
I will ever give to thee.

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Dare To Be Brave

Duncan Hume

Dare to be brave, dare to be true, God grant you courage to carry you through;
Try to help others, ever be kind, Let the oppressed a strong friend in you find.
Strive then, good Christians, strive to be brave, Christ, your example, ready to save.

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Susan Robertson
Song Leader.....	Bob Gangwer
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Bob Gangwer
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Tech & Media.....	Kevin Beers