

The image features three smooth, dark grey rocks stacked vertically on a rough, textured surface. The background is a blurred, warm-toned natural setting. Overlaid on the rocks is the text 'BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE' in a bold, yellow-green, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines, with 'BETWEEN A' on the top rock, 'ROCK AND A' on the middle rock, and 'HARD PLACE' on the bottom rock.

**BETWEEN A**

**ROCK AND A**

**HARD PLACE**



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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May 14, 2023

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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Welcome

Prelude

*Woodland Flute Song*

Lani Smith

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\* Opening Words

#903A

Do not fear, says God, I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

\* Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you have welcomed all people into your kingdom. Remove from us the barriers that we build to keep people from you, so that all might live in your grace and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

\* Opening Song

*Holy Spirit, Come With Power*

# 5 7

Verse 1:

Holy Spirit, come with power, breathe into our aching night.  
We expect you this glad hour, waiting for your strength and light.  
We are fearful, we are ailing, we are weak and selfish too.  
Break upon your congregation, give us vigor, life anew.

Verse 2:

Holy Spirit, come with fire, burn us with your presence new.  
Let us as one mighty choir sing our hymn of praise to you.  
Burn away our wasted sadness and enflame us with your love.  
Burst upon your congregation, give us gladness from above.

Verse 3:

Holy Spirit, bring your message, burn and breathe each word anew  
deep into our tired living till we strive your work to do.  
Teach us love and trusting kindness, lend our hands to those who hurt.  
Breathe upon your congregation and inspire us with your Word.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

**Song**

*All God's Critters (A Place in the Choir)*

Bill Staines

A Place in the Choir by Bill Staines  
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*CHORUS: All God's critters got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire  
And some just clap their hands or paws  
or anything they got, now ..*

Verse 1:

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom  
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus  
Moans and groans with a big t'-do  
And the old cow just goes moo.

*CHORUS*

Verse 2:

The dogs and the cats, they take up the middle  
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles  
The donkey brays and the pony neighs  
And the old coyote howls.

*CHORUS*

Verse 3:

Listen to the top where the little birds sing  
On the melody with the high notes ringing  
The hoot owl hollers over every-thing  
And the jay bird disa-grees.

*CHORUS*

Verse 4:

Singing in the night time, singing in the day

The little duck quacks, then he's on his way  
The 'possum ain't got much to say  
And the porcupine talks to himself.

*CHORUS*

Verse 5:

It's a simple song of living song everywhere  
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear  
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above  
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

*CHORUS*

## Pastoral Prayer

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Special Music

*What Wondrous Love*

C.E. Walz

## Thoughts on Giving

#1019

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with good gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. We receive these gifts in gratitude and offer them to the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## \* Song

*Praise God (Dedication Anthem)*

# 70

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

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, amen, amen.  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
amen, amen, hallelujah, amen, hallelujah, amen.

## **LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **Scripture Lesson**

Romans 5:12-21 (*NRSVUE*)

#### **Adam and Christ**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> But law came in, so that the trespass might increase, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so grace might also reign through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Sermon**

“Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

# GO IN GOD'S NAME

## \* Song

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

# 628

### Verse 1:

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer.

### Verse 2:

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer!

### Verse 3:

Are we weak and heavy laden, 'cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Jesus' arms will take and shield thee—thou wilt find a solace there.

## \* Benediction

### Postlude

*What Mercy and Divine Compassion*

Hiller/Buch

What mercy and divine compassion has God in Christ revealed to me!

My haughty spirit would not ask it, yet he bestowed it full and free.

In God my heart does now rejoice.

I praise his grace with grateful voice, I praise his grace with grateful voice.

\* Please stand as able and led



### Ministers ..... All Members

Pastor..... David Whitten

Flautist..... Sarah Hartman

Worship Leader ..... Joel Guyer

Guitarist ..... David Whitten

Children's Time ..... Sarah Hartman

Pianist/Organist ..... Bob Phillips

Special Music ..... Bob Phillips

Tech & Media ..... Shaun Finchum