



**MISSING
THE MARK**



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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May 21, 2023

7th Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Bell Prelude

Prelude and Dance

Judy Hunnicutt

I. Prelude

II. Dance

Prelude and Dance by Judy Hunnicutt

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

One: It is the light of God's love in Christ that brings a rich harvest of goodness and truth.

All: So we would live like people who belong to the light.

One: We would have nothing to do with worthless things that belong to the world of darkness.

All: In the name of Jesus we would live in the light, giving thanks to God the Father.

* Opening Prayer

Life-giving God, we gather in Your presence to offer You thanksgiving and praise for all that You have done for us. Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been set free—free from the power of sin that leads to death, free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit, free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength, free to worship! May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to Your presence among

us and within us, and to the Word You have for us today. To You alone, life-giving God, belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now and to the end of time. Amen.

* **Opening Song**

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

170

Verse 1

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
how shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain:

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, (the matchless grace of Jesus.)
deeper than the mighty rolling sea, (the rolling sea.)
wonderful grace (higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain.)
all sufficient for me, for even me, (all sufficient grace for even me;)
broader than the scope of my transgressions, (sing it!)
greater far than all my sin and shame. (my sin and shame.)
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!

Verse 2

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost,
by it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost.
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty,
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain

Verse 3

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most reviled,
by its transforming power making me God's dear child,
purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity,
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

Verse 1:

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Verse 2:

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by thy help I'm come,
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Verse 3:

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Congregational Prayer

Sisters and brothers, let's not let sin control the way we live.
Let's not give in to sinful desires. Rather, let's offer ourselves to
God, who through his mercy has brought us from death to life.

Opportunity for Confession (in unison)

(Time of silent reflection)

God, we confess that we have sinned in your sight. Despite our best efforts and intentions, we have failed to consistently live in ways that bring honor to your name. Forgive us. Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, set us free from the grip of sin— from attitudes and actions that do not lead to life.

Words of Assurance

Once we were slaves to sin, living lives that led only to death. But thanks be to God! In his mercy, he has set us free from the power of sin and death, and has offered us forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord! Now you are free to choose life, and to use your life to bring honor and glory to God! Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Close to Thee

Silas Vail

Close to Thee by Silas Vail

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Prayer on Giving

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb

could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen.

Song

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

6 8 5

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Romans 6:1-4 (NLT)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Sermon

“Missing the Mark”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Song**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

4 1 9

Verse 1

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Benediction

Postlude

All Who Believe

Melchoir Vulptus

All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation.
Baptized into the death of Christ, each is a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption we shall stand
Among the glorious heavenly band of every tribe and nation.

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers All Members

- Pastor..... David Whitten
- Worship Leader..... Susan Robertson
- Children's Time Sarah Hartman
- Special Music..... Bob Phillips
- Bell Choir Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Carol Goss,
Gail Rhodes, Ken Heatwole, Kevin Beers, Sarah Hartman ^(director)
- Flautist Sarah Hartman
- Guitarist..... David Whitten
- Pianist/Organist Bob Phillips
- Tech & Media Dir..... Kevin Beers