



**We Have a  
Problem**



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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June 4, 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

“The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord” (Psalm 33:5, ESV)

Welcome to worship. Let us together praise God!

Welcome

Prelude

*Simple Gifts*

Shaker Hymn

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

One: The Spirit of God has made me

Many: and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)

One: If God took back the breath that he breathed into us,

Many: we humans would die and return to the soil. (Job 34:14-15)

ALL: BREATHE ON US YOUR BREATH OF LIFE.

### \* Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

\* **Opening Song**      *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*      # 7 3 7

Verse 1    Breathe on me, breath of God.  
              Fill me with life anew,  
              that I may love what you so love,  
              and do what you would do.

Verse 2    Breathe on me, breath of God,  
              until my heart is pure,  
              until with you, I will one will:  
              to do and to endure.

Verse 3    Breathe on me, breath of God,  
              my will to yours incline,  
              till all this selfish part of me  
              glows with your fire divine.

Verse 4    Breathe on me, breath of God,  
              so shall I never die,  
              but live with you the perfect life  
              of your eternity.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

**Song**      *Spirit of the Living God*      # 7 4 0

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### **Congregational Prayer**

**Old Testament Reading**      Isaiah 6:1-8, NRSVUE

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the

temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

**Special Music**

*Menuet*

BWV Anhang 116

**Thoughts on Giving**

# 1021

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. I would be silent now, Lord, and expectant... that I may receive the gift I need, so that I may become the gift others need.

**Song**

*Praise God (Doxology)*

# 71B

B: 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.

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

## Scripture Reading

Isaiah 6:9-13, NRSVUE

- <sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go and say to this people:  
'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.'
- <sup>10</sup> Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears,  
and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes  
and listen with their ears  
and comprehend with their minds  
and turn and be healed."
- <sup>11</sup> Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said,  
"Until cities lie waste  
without inhabitant,  
and houses without people,  
and the land is utterly desolate;  
<sup>12</sup> until the Lord sends everyone far away,  
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.  
<sup>13</sup> Even if a tenth part remain in it,  
it will be burned again,  
like a terebinth or an oak  
whose stump remains standing  
when it is felled."  
(The holy seed is its stump.)

## Sermon

"We Have a Problem"

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \* Song

*Here I Am, Lord*

# 5 4 5

Verse 1:

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make the darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Verse 2:

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

Verse 3:

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will call the poor by name.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

## Benediction

## Postlude

*The Foggy Dew*

Variation by Jessica Walsh

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music .....	Zherina Whitten
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Tech & Media Dir. ....	Kevin Beers