

A close-up photograph of a single purple pansy flower with five petals and a yellow center, growing from a bed of brown, dry autumn leaves. The background is a soft-focus field of similar leaves. The text is overlaid in white, handwritten-style font.

THIS IS WHAT

GOOD
NEWS

LOOKS LIKE



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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June 25, 2023

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Prelude

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers

Sweet, Sweet Spirit by Doris Akers

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

Moira Laidlaw

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed—and Jesus embodied—God’s call to reach out and care for those who are brokenhearted and those who mourn, people who are abused and oppressed, who are powerless to make changes for good in their lives. The Spirit of the Lord empowers and anoints us to proclaim and to live out that same message—to lift up those who are downtrodden, to comfort those who mourn, to be bearers of the gospel in word and deed.

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Holy, Holy, Holy!

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Verse 1:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Verse 2:

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Verse 3:

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Verse 4:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

* **Song**

10,000 Reasons

1 1 1

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman,

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Refrain:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul worships your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.*

Verse 1:

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

[Refrain]

Verse 2:

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
your name is great and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

[Refrain]

Verse 3:

And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come,

still, my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

[Refrain]

*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul worships your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name,
worship Your Holy name; worship Your Holy name.*

Congregational Prayer

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:8-11, NRSVUE

⁸ For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Ain't Got Time To Die

Francis Hall Johnson

Ain't Got Time To Die by Francis Hall Johnson

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Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly

Have you ever wondered what we do with the offering each week? We spend it. No, seriously, we do. We spend it on our children's ministry. We spend it on our music ministry. We spend it on helping those in need through our district and denomination. We spend it on ensuring we have a safe, healthy environment in which

to meet each week (and throughout the week). We spend it on spreading the gospel through multiple online services.

Yes, we spend the money you give as your tithes and offerings. We take our responsibility seriously to be excellent stewards of the money entrusted to us. As you prepare your tithes and offerings this morning, know that we don't take them for granted. We will use the money you're offering to God to honor Him, to spread the Good News, and to make disciples.

Song

You Are Exalted

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You Are Exalted (He Is Exalted) by Twila Paris
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Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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You are exalted, forever exalted on high. I will praise you.
You are exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise your name!

You are my God—forever your truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in your holy name.
You are exalted, forever exalted on high!

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, NRSVUE

The Good News of Deliverance

61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Sermon

“What Good News Looks Like”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* Song

We Praise Thee, O God

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Verse 1:

We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.

Verse 2:

We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light
who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

We praise thee, O God, for the joy thou hast giv’n
to thy saints in communion, these foretastes of heav’n. *Refrain*

Verse 4:

Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love.
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. *Refrain*

* Benediction

Postlude

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin

* Please stand as able and led



MinistersAll Members

Pastor.....David Whitten	Flautist.....Sarah Hartman
Worship LeaderThoko Lipato	GuitaristDavid Whitten
Children’s Time Sarah Hartman	Pianist.....Vanessa Morton
Special Music Vanessa Morton	Tech & Media Dir.....Kevin Beers