



"I call you friends."

-- John 15:15



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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July 2, 2023

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Prelude

We Are People of God's Peace

Esther Bergan

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Invitation to Worship

One: The quiet atmosphere of this place summons us away from a world of violence and deceit, greed and distrust, struggle and competition.

All: **We find here wholeness and joy, friendliness and cooperation, a spirit that affirms God is all in all.**

One: By gathering together, we hope to see that the other world belongs to God's world.

All: **We hope to see God changes enemies into friends and gives us the task of making all into friends, friends through divine love.**

* Prayer of Gathering

(based on #855 VT)

O God, we stand in awe of you as before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, a grain of sand. We seek to be silent, receptive, as before a tree astir with wind or a passing shadow of a cloud. We offer our work in dedication, pausing at times to listen to the strains of music. We sing with the singing beauty of the earth, listening to your still small voice amid the storms of life. May the mystery within in us reach out to you, the Mystery beyond us. Amen.

Verse 1:

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song.

Verse 2:

Sing a new world into being where each gender, class, and race
brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;
where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind.

Verse 3:

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home;
where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom;
where all people work for justice; where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Verse 4:

Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophet's cry
for a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
when compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

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 every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer

Congregational Prayer

O God, between the words, beneath the words, beyond the words, may you meet us in the places where words cannot go. (silence) O Holy One, apart from your friendship, our ways often become twisted and our instincts unreliable. Recreate our relationships with one another that we may live in thoughtfulness and cooperation, not in thoughtlessness and competition. Show us how to be just in our words and actions, humbly finding joy in you and others. Embrace the sick and disabled with strength and courage. Release our plenty into care of the poor. Grant peace and goodwill across the world's divisions. Show us the common good that goes beyond personal gain or power. Touch those who tell our stories in the media, inspiring them to tell the truth beyond profit and sensationalism. Sustain those who teach and nourish the young and innocent. Safeguard the church that it may live above pettiness and contentiousness. Gather us all into the warmth of Jesus' example of friendship. Amen.

Special Music *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty* Mary S. Edgar

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WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

(based on #1016 VT)

As we reflect on how we might support the ministries of West Richmond Church of the Brethren, we remember the Jesus of friendship and leftovers, who fed crowds long ago. We sometimes struggle with what to share and how much is enough. Sometimes we are like the disciples quietly suggesting the

crowds need to be sent away. Sometimes we are the crowds, bringing only our desire to be close to God. When we have little, may Jesus embolden us to share it. When we have nothing, may Jesus welcome us to stay and eat. In giving and receiving, we participate in the wonder of enough. Thanks be to God.

* Hymn

New Earth, Heavens New

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New Earth, Heavens New by Harris Loewen
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Verse 1

New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving
New seed, creatures new, Spirit of life moving
New man, woman new, image of God moving
Sing a new song to the One who said,
“Behold, I make all things new”

Verse 2

New love, mercies new, Spirit of God moving
New strength, hopefulness new, Spirit of life moving
New hearts, spirits new, image of God moving
Sing a new song to the One who said,
“Behold, I make all things new”

Verse 3

New minds, wisdom new, Spirit of God moving
New law, covenant new, Spirit of life moving
New name, nature new, image of God moving
Sing a new song to the One who said,
“Behold, I make all things new”

Verse 4

New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving
New birth, creatures new, Spirit of life moving
New growth, people new, image of God moving
Sing a new song to the One who said,
“Behold, I make all things new”

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lessons

(from Good News Bible)

Luke 22:24-27

An argument broke out among the disciples as to which one of them should be thought of as the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the pagans have power over their people, and the rulers claim the title 'Friends of the People.' But this is not the way it is with you; rather, the greatest one among you must be like the youngest, and the leader must be like the servant. Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves.

John 15:15, 17

"I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from the Father. This, then, is what I command you: love one another."

2 Corinthians 5:17, 18

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into friends and gave us the task of making others God's friends also.

Sermon

"Survival of the Friendliest"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

Strong, Peaceful Man of Galilee

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Verse 1

Strong, peaceful man of Galilee,
robed with your strength we long to be—
not to revenge; to heal and pray
To turn the cheek, and tribute pay.

Robed with your strength we long to be,
strong, peaceful man of Galilee

Verse 2

Strong suffering man of Galilee,
clad in your grace we hope to be—
love at the well, share Martha’s loss
Forgive the nails, and take the cross.
Clad in you grace we hope to be,
strong, righteous man of Galilee

Verse 3

God’s peaceful man of Galilee,
love’s triumph, we at last will see—
to crumble ev’ry boundry wall
Build highways to the hearts of all.
Love’s triumph, we at last will see,
God’s peaceful man of Galilee

*** Prayer of Blessing and Sending**

Go, knowing you are befriended by God.
Go, knowing you are ambassadors of friendship to others.
Go, living the message of God’s grace, peace, and love. Amen

Postlude

Go Ye Now in Peace

Joyce Elaine Eilers

* Please stand as able and led



MinistersAll Members

Pastor.....David Whitten	Special MusicKate Jacobsen
Guest Speaker.....David Brunk	Flautist.....Sarah Hartman
Worship LeaderSusan Robertson	Pianist.....Kate Jacobsen
Children’s TimeSarah Hartman	Tech & Media Dir.....Kevin Beers