

A photograph of a white building with a green arched doorway. The doorway is framed in green and has a small stained-glass window above it. Two small blue lanterns are mounted on the wall on either side of the doorway. Two black flower pots with purple flowers are placed on the steps leading to the doorway. A small evergreen tree is on the left side of the building. A paved walkway leads to the doorway, and a grassy area is in the foreground.

Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers,

for by doing that
some have entertained
angels without knowing it.



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35)

Welcome

Prelude

Swing Low

arr. Eugenie Rocheroll

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

¹ Walter Russell Bowie; ² Hebrews 13:2 CEV

One: When we receive another human being with warm-hearted kindness. ¹

All: We may be nearer than we know to a divine experience.

One: Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. ²

All: By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Move in Our Midst

827

Verse 1

Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God.

Go with us down from thy holy hill.

Walk with us through the storm and the calm.

Spirit of God, go thou with us still.

Verse 2

Touch thou our hands to lead us aright.
Guide us forever, show us thy way.
Transform our darkness into thy light.
Spirit of God, lead thou us today.

Verse 3

Strike from our feet the fetters that bind.
Lift from our lives the weight of our wrong.
Teach us to love with heart, soul, and mind.
Spirit of God, thy love makes us strong.

Verse 4:

Kindle our hearts to burn with thy flame.
Raise up thy banners high in this hour.
Stir us to build new worlds in thy name.
Spirit of God, O send us thy pow'r!

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

* **Song**

Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us

7 | 8

Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us by Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither
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Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
for we need you to help us find our way.

Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,
for we need your strength from day to day.

There's no other we can turn to
who can help us face another day.

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
for we need you to help us find our way.

Pastoral Prayer

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 19:33-34, NRSVUE

³³ “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Joy in My Soul

Mark Hayes

Joy in My Soul by Mark Hayes

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Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly

The early church that gathered right after Jesus went back to heaven saw incredible growth in a short period of time. These new believers were excited about what they’d just experienced and what they were seeing from the disciples.

One thing they did was to take care of each other ... to the point of selling their possessions to help those in need. That’s an incredible commitment to your brother and sister in Christ, isn’t it?

While selling your possessions may not be necessary, that example is something to remember as we consider whether (or how much) to give. The followers of Christ who actually knew Jesus—who’d seen Him and heard Him teach—they were moved to take care of each other to the point of selling what they owned to help their new family. That’s a powerful example to follow.

As we receive our tithes and offerings, let’s follow the example of the early church and give generously to help those in need.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Song

Thy Word Is a Lamp

398

Thy Word Is a Lamp by Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith
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Refrain:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Verse 1

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

Verse 2

I will not forget your love for me, and yet
my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side;

I will love you to the end.

Refrain

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35, NRSVUE

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with

them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon “Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Song** *For We Are Strangers No More* # 409

Refrain:

*For we are strangers no more, but members of one family;
strangers no more, but part of one humanity;
strangers no more, we’re neighbors to each other now;
strangers no more, we’re bound to one another now.*

Verse 1:

Come, walk with me, we’ll worship God together,
as we join song to song, and prayer to prayer.
Come, take my hand, and we will work together
by lifting all the burdens we can share.

Refrain

Verse 2

Where diff’ring cultures meet, we’ll serve together.
Where hatred rages, we will strive for peace.
Come, take my hand, and we will pray together
that justice come, and strife and warfare cease.

Refrain

Verse 3

There is a love that binds the world together,
a love that seeks the last, the lost, the least.
One day that love will bring us all together
in Christ, from South and North, from West and East. *Refrain*

* **Benediction**

Postlude

God, Give Me Faith like a Child

#519

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Ann Andrus
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Nancy Heishman
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist	Nancy Heishman
Tech & Media Dir.	Kevin Beers