



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 23, 2023

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

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

### Welcome

#### Prelude

*Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary*

Thompson/Scruggs

*Sanctuary* by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

<http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>

One: Creator God, you call us to hospitality; to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

Many: **For there are angels among us.**

One: Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another.

Many: **To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.**

One: We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

Many: **We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love.**

### \* Opening Prayer

### \* Opening Song

*What a Fellowship*

# 160 VT

#### Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;

what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*

*Leaning* <sup>(on Jesus)</sup>, *leaning* <sup>(on Jesus)</sup>, *safe and secure from all alarms;*  
*leaning* <sup>(on Jesus)</sup>, *leaning* <sup>(on Jesus)</sup>, *leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Verse 2

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

**Song**            *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*            # 774 VT

Verse 1

Lord, you give the great commission:  
"Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission,  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:  
*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

Verse 2

Lord, you call us to your service:  
"In my name, baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise,  
life abundant meant for each,

give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:  
*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

### Verse 3

Lord, you make the common holy:  
"This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory,  
daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:  
*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

### Verse 4

Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
"Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure  
all that you so freely give.  
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:  
*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

### Verse 5

Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
"I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
may we serve as you intend  
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:  
*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

## Pastoral Prayer

### Old Testament Reading

Exodus 23:9, NRSVUE

<sup>9</sup> "You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

\* **Song**                      *Help Us To Help Each Other*                      # 362 HWB

Verse 1

Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's load to bear,  
that all may live in true accord, our joys and pains to share.

Verse 2:

Help us to build each other up, your strength within us prove.  
Increase our faith, confirm our hope and fill us with your love.

Verse 3:

Together make us free indeed—your strength within us show,  
and into you, our living Head, let us in all things grow.

Verse 4:

Drawn by the magnet of your love, we find our hearts made new.  
Nearer each other let us move and nearer still to you.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

**Scripture Lesson**                      I Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14, 26-27 NRSVUE

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

<sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Sermon**

“Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ”

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

**\* Song**

*For We Are Strangers No More*

# 409 VT

*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**

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

Doris M. Akers

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Thoko Lipato
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music .....	Vanessa Morton
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist .....	Vanessa Morton
Tech & Media.....	Shaun Finchum



# CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

## **Today, Sunday, July 23**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship (on site & on-line) with Children's Church

## **Monday, July 24**

9:30 a.m. Friendship Café

3:00 p.m. Handbells

## **Tuesday, July 25**

10:30 a.m. Ladies Circle

## **Wednesday, July 26**

9:30 a.m. Friendship Café

6:00 p.m. Yoga in the Gathering Room

## **Saturday, July 29**

6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night in the Friendship Room

## **Next Sunday, July 30**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship (on site & on-line) with Nursery Care