



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 30, 2023

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

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

Welcome

Handbell Prelude

Simple Gifts

arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

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

<http://www.elca.org/>

Holy Lord, make our eyes and our hearts more open to the needs of others, especially the hungry, the hurting, and the poor. Help us to see that in caring for the Earth, we are also caring for one another. And help us, O Lord, to live in ways that promote respect, compassion, justice, and peace for all people, and for all of your broken and yet beautiful creation. Lord, in your mercy, we pray, Amen

* Opening Song

Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing

7 VT

Verse 1:

Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love.

Let heav'n and earth their praises bring, God is love.

Let ev'ry soul from sin awake,
let ev'ry heart sweet music make,
and sing with us for Jesus' sake, for God is love.

*Refrain: God is love! God is love!
Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.*

Verse 2:

O tell to earth's remotest bound, God is love.
In Christ we have redemption found, God is love.
His blood has washed our sins away,
his Spirit turned our night to day,
and now we can rejoice to say that God is love.

Refrain

Verse 3:

What though our mortal flesh shall fail, God is love!
Through Christ we shall o'er death prevail, God is love!
While endless ages roll along,
we'll triumph with the heav'nly throng
and this shall be our sweetest song, that God is love!

Refrain

Verse 4:

How happy is our portion here, God is love.
These promises our spirits cheer, God is love.
God is our sun and shield by day,
our help, our hope, our strength and stay;
and will be with us all the way: our God is love.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

* **Song**

Lord, Listen to Your Children

682 VT

Lord, Listen to Your Children by Ken Medema
© 1973 Hope Publishing Company
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Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Congregational Prayer

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:1-4, 13-14, NRSVUE

58 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Be Still My Soul ...

arr. Greg Maroney

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly

Giving is an act of worship. It's one way we can communicate to God that we put Him first and that we trust Him with our finances. Sometimes worship is public. When we sing together as a congregation, that's a very public act of worship. Other times, worship is private. Praying alone at home or giving are a couple of examples. In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us to give without making a big deal out of it. In fact, we shouldn't seek the applause and approval of anyone but God when we give. For those of you who schedule recurring gifts online, you already know what it means to "give in secret." You may feel a bit awkward not putting anything into the offering plate each week, but don't worry about it—God knows you gave.

Song

Jesus Christ Is Waiting

287 VT

Jesus Christ Is Waiting by Graham Maule, John L. Bell
© WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)
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Verse 1:

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbor, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Verse 2:

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Verse 3:

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Verse 4:

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
Where good conquers evil let me dance with you.

Verse 5:

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Mark 3:1-6, NRSVUE

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." 4 Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. 5 He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Sermon

"Don't Look Away"

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

... Be Still My Soul

arr. Greg Maroney

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Guest Speaker	Nancy Heishman
Worship Leader.....	Barbara Beers
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Handbell Prelude.....	Our Handbell Choir
Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Sandy Faw, Ken Heatwole, Vanessa Morton, Alyce Newman, and Sarah Hartman <small>(director)</small>	
Special Music.....	Ken Heatwole
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Pianist	Ken Heatwole
Tech & Media	Jon Hartman



CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, July 30

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, July 31

Church Offices Closed

9:30 a.m. Friendship Café

Tuesday, August 1

10:30 a.m. Ladies Circle

5:15 p.m. Hull Street Ministry at Veterans Liberation Services

5:30 p.m. National Night Out

Wednesday, August 2

9:30 a.m. Friendship Café

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

Next Sunday, August 6

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

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

12:05 p.m. Congregational Business Meeting