

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 the door. 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 door. A small evergreen tree is on the left side of the building. A paved walkway leads to the door, and a green lawn 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

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

August 6, 2023

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

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

Welcome

Prelude

Amazing Grace

John Newton

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

We believe in God, whose creative power is shown in the universe. We believe in Jesus, whose loving kindness is shown in example. We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose befriending grace is shown in presence. We believe in the community of faith, whose connecting fellowship is shown in togetherness. We believe in hope, a hope that enlarges us as we wait for the good that is to be. May our belief embrace both word and action.

* Prayer of Gathering

adapted from Diane Tucker

O Lord of “yes,” O ruler of all that is, filler of the void, chaos tamer. You set the tides and spin the planets, draw endless patterns with numbered precision. Show us creation’s glory and story, large and small, the atom and the galaxy together. Hold us in your love as we believe and hope. Amen.

* Hymn

Summoned by the God Who Made Us

1 VT

Verse 1

Summoned by the God who made us, rich in our diversity
gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity.

Chorus

*Let us bring the gifts that differ, and in splendid, varied ways
sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

Verse 2

Radiant risen from the water, robed in holiness and light
ev'ry person in God's image, ev'ry person, God's delight.

Chorus

Verse 3

Trust the goodness of creation, trust the Spirit strong within
dare to dream the vision promised, sprung from seed of what has been.

Chorus

Verse 4

Bring the hopes of ev'ry nation, bring the art of ev'ry race
weave a song of peace and justice, let it sound through time and space.

Chorus

Verse 5

Draw together at one table all the human family;
shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.

Chorus

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

Congregational Prayer

O God, whose life is our peace and whose love is our hope. We are always in you and you in us, though in times of quietness like this, we are more aware of being in you and you in us. We pray for strength for those tired, stillness for those fearful, encouragement for those desperate, courage for those weak, vision for those whose lives are dull, joy for those sad, healing

for those sick, wisdom for those eager. Show us through the spirit of Jesus, the fickleness of popularity, the limits of riches, the value of authenticity, and the pricelessness of kindness. Give us gentle hearts for the oppressed, the different, the young, the old, the forgotten, creatures about us, mother earth. In the spirit of Jesus, help us overcome all that hinders us from being a people of hope. Amen.

* Hymn

We Shall Overcome

803 VT

Verse 1

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome someday.

Verse 2

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand hand someday
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll walk hand in hand someday.

Verse 3

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace someday
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace someday.

Verse 4

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we are not afraid today.

Verse 5

God will see us through, God will see us through,
God will see us through
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
God will see us through today.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

#893 VT

One: As we consider how we might support the ministries of West Richmond Church of the Brethren, let us pray :
For failing to love others as you have loved us

All: God of grace, forgive us.

One: For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods

All: God of grace, forgive us.

One: For plundering the earth and abusing the planet

All: God of grace, forgive us.

One: For fearing those strange to us and ignoring those in need

All: God of grace, forgive us.

One: For losing heart and abandoning hope

All: God of grace, forgive us.

One: For all the ways we turn from you

All: God of grace, forgive us, as we offer our prayers to you, in the name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ. Amen

Special Music

Teach Me Lord to Wait

arr. Gerald Moore

Teach Me Lord to Wait by Stuart Hamblen

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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Romans 8:18-28, 38-39, GNB

I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope that creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we know that up to the present time all creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. But it is not just creation alone that groans; we who have the Spirit as the

first of God’s gifts also groan within ourselves as we wait for God to make us his children and set our whole being free. For it was by hope that we were saved, but if we see what we hope for, then it is not really hope. For who of us hopes for something we see? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will.

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose. For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God’s love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers of powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sermon

“Enlarged in the Waiting”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

6 | 0 VT

Precious Lord, Take My Hand by Thomas Andrew Dorsey

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Verse 1:

Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, help me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 2:

When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 3:

When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*** Prayer of Blessing and Sending**

1068 VT

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Postlude

He Touched Me

William J. Gaither

He Touched Me by William J. Gaither

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*** Please stand as able and led**



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....David Whitten	Special Music Barbara Beers
Guest SpeakerDavid Brunk	Flautist Sarah Hartman
Worship LeaderFloyd Herdrich	Pianist Vanessa Morton
Children’s TimeSarah Hartman	Tech & Media Director Kevin Beers

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, 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

Monday, August 7

- 9:30 a.m. Friendship Café
- 3:00 p.m. Handbells

Tuesday, August 8

- 10:30 a.m. Ladies Circle

Wednesday, August 9

- 9:30 a.m. Friendship Café
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga in the Gathering Room

Next Sunday, August 13

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (on site & on-line) with Nursery Care

