

A photograph of a white building with a green arched doorway. The doorway is framed in green and has a 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 paved path leads from the foreground to the doorway. The foreground is a grassy area with some weeds.

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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August 13, 2023

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

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## Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

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

Welcome

Prelude

*Longing for Light*

Bernadette Farrell

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2008/11/reign-of-christ.html>

One: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

All: **where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**

One: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

All: **where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

One: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

All: **where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

### \* Opening Prayer

\* **Opening Song**

*Brothers and Sisters of Mine*

# 142 HWB

Verse 1:

Brothers and sisters of mine are the hungry,  
who sigh in their sorrow and weep in their pain.  
Sisters and brothers of mine are the homeless,  
who wait without shelter from wind and from rain.

Verse 2:

Strangers and neighbors, they claim our attention.  
They sleep by my doorstep, they sit by my bed.  
Neighbors and strangers, their anguish concerns me,  
and I must not feast till the hungry are fed.

Verse 3:

People are they, men and women and children,  
and each has a heart keeping time with my own.  
People are they, persons made in God's image,  
so what shall I offer them, bread or a stone?

Verse 4:

Lord of all living, we make our confession:  
Too long we have wasted the wealth of our lands.  
Lord of all loving, renew our compassion,  
and open our hearts while we reach out our hands.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

### **Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 23, KJV

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest

my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

\* **Song**

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

# 660 VT

Verse 1:

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie in pastures green;  
he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

Verse 2:

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make within the paths  
of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Verse 3:

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill, for thou art with  
me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

Verse 4:

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes. My head thou dost  
with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Verse 5:

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me, and in God's house  
forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

## Pastoral Prayer

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Special Music

#### *In This Very Room*

Ron & Carol Harris

*In This Very Room* by Ron and Carol Harris

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# Thoughts on Giving

Isaiah 58:7

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

## Song

### *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

# 778 VT

*The Servant Song by Richard Gillard*

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#### Verse 1:

Will you let me be your servant—  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

#### Verse 2:

We are pilgrims on a journey;  
we are trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other:  
walk the mile and bear the load.

#### Verse 3:

I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the nighttime of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

#### Verse 4:

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow:  
till we've seen this journey through.

#### Verse 5:

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Verse 6:

Will you let me be your servant—  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46, NRSVUE

#### The Judgment of the Nations

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it

that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

**Sermon** “Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ #4”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

\* **Song**

*Build Your Kingdom Here*

# 393 VT

*Build Your Kingdom Here* by Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, William Herron

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### Verse 1:

Come set your rule, and reign in our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,  
like wildfire in our very souls;  
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.  
We are your church; we need your pow'r in us.

### Verse 2:

We seek your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;  
refuse to waste our lives, for you're our joy and prize.  
To see the captives' hearts released,  
the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace,  
we lay down our lives for heaven's cause.  
We are your church; we pray, revive this earth.

### *Refrain:*

*Build your kingdom here. Let the evil fear.  
Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.  
Set your church on fire. Win your people back.  
Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!*

Verse 3:

Unleash your kingdom’s pow’r, reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop your beauty, changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this;  
awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.  
We are your church; we are the hope on earth.

*Refrain: (2x)*

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*God Be With You*

arr. Kate Jacobsen

\* Please stand as able and led



- Ministers** ..... **All Members**
- Pastor ..... David Whitten
- Worship Leader..... Susan Robertson
- Children’s Time ..... Sarah Hartman
- Special Music..... Vanessa Morton & David Whitten
- Guitarist ..... David Whitten
- Pianist ..... Kate Jacobsen
- Tech & Media ..... Dustin Dedrick