

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 black flower pots with purple flowers are on either side of the door. A small evergreen tree is on the left. A paved path leads to the door. The background is a white building with horizontal siding.

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 20, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ

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

Welcome

Prelude

Total Praise

Arr. Stephen Key

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NLT

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Here I Am to Worship

227 HWB

Here I Am to Worship by Tim Hughes

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Verse 1:

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain:

*So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

Verse 2:

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above,
humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Refrain

Bridge:

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Back to School Prayer

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

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 7:9-10

This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'

* **Song**

People Need the Lord

on monitor

People Need the Lord by Greg Nelson, Phill McHugh
© 1983 River Oaks Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Shepherd's Fold Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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Verse 1:

Ev'ry day they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes;

empty people filled with care, headed who knows where.
On they go through private pain, living fear to fear.
Laughter hides their silent cries; only Jesus hears.

Refrain:

*People need the Lord, people need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door.
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.
When will we realize people need the Lord?*

Verse 2:

We are called to take His light to a world where wrong seems right.
What could be too great a cost for sharing life with one who's lost?
Through His love our hearts can feel all the grief they bear.
They must hear the words of life; only we can share. [*Refrain*]

Pastoral Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Medley of Favorites

arr. W. Kinzie

Thoughts on Giving

#1024 VT

Leader: There is no scarcity. There is no shortage. No lack of love, of compassion, of joy in the world. There is enough. There is more than enough. Only fear and greed make us think otherwise. No one need starve.

People: **There is enough land and enough food.**

Leader: No one need die of thirst.

People: **There is enough water.**

Leader: No one need live without mercy.

People: **There is no end to grace.**

Leader: And we are all instruments of grace.

People: **The more we give it, the more we share it, the more we use it, the more God makes.**

Leader: There is no scarcity of love.

Song

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord

131 VT

The Servant Song by Richard Gillard

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Verse 1:

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Verse 2:

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Verse 3:

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Luke 10:25-37, NRSVUE

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Sermon

Welcome a Stranger, Welcome Christ #5

“Jesus is in the Neighborhood”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Song

We Are One in the Spirit

3 8 7 VT

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love by Peter Scholtes

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Verse 1:

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Verse 2:

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain

Verse 3:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
we will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Refrain

*** Benediction**

Postlude

My Father Watches Over Me

Charles H. Gabriel

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Barbara Beers
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Sarah Hartman, Bill Kinzie, Vanessa Morton, David Whitten
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist	Vanessa Morton
Violinist	Bill Kinzie
Tech & Media Director	Kevin Beers