



*Laugh*

*with Me*



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 17, 2023

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

## Welcome

## Prelude

*Come Spirit, Come*

Mary Kay Beall

*Come Spirit, Come* by Mary Kay Beall: © 2000 Hope Publishing Company  
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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

Psalm 126:1-3 NIV

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. <sup>2</sup> Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” <sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

### \* Opening Prayer

God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will. Amen

### \* Opening Song

*To God Be the Glory*

# 84 VT

#### Verse 1:

To God be the glory, great things he hath done:  
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

*Refrain:*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

Verse 2:

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Refrain*

Verse 3:

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Refrain*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

**Children's Time** (after, children, under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

**Song**

*Pass Me Not O Gentle Shepherd*

insert

**Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 18:11-15 CEV

<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah was well past the age for having children. <sup>12</sup> So she laughed and said to herself, "Now that I am worn out and my husband is old, will I really know such happiness?"

<sup>13</sup> The Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Does she doubt that she can have a child in her old age? <sup>14</sup> I am the Lord! There is nothing too difficult for me. I'll come back next year at the time I promised, and Sarah will already have a son."

<sup>15</sup> Sarah was so frightened that she lied and said, "I didn't laugh."  
"Yes, you did!" he answered.

# Congregational Prayer

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

*Witness*

Hall Johnson

### Thoughts on Giving

*“Sitting across from the offering box, he was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, “The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they’ll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford—she gave her all.”* *(Luke 21:1-4)*

However much you’re giving today, know this: God is not looking at what’s in your hands but what’s in your heart.

Whether our giving is a small or large sum, what truly matters is our willingness to give wholeheartedly and sacrificially.

**Song**

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* # 529 VT

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* by Catherine Cameron, William Moore

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#### Verse 1:

God, who stretched the spangled heavens,  
infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance  
through the silent fields of space;  
we, your children in your likeness,  
share inventive pow’rs with you.  
Great creator still creating,  
show us what we yet may do.

#### Verse 2:

We have ventured worlds undreamed of

since the childhood of our race,  
known the ecstasy of winging  
through untraveled realms of space,  
probed the secrets of the atom,  
yielding unimagined pow'r,  
facing us with life's destruction  
or our most triumphant hour.

Verse 3:

As each far horizon beckons,  
may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose  
serving others, hon'ring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise,  
each endeavor well begun.  
Great creator, give us guidance  
till our goals and yours are one.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Genesis 21:1-7 CEV

21 The Lord was good to Sarah and kept his promise. <sup>2</sup> Although Abraham was very old, Sarah had a son exactly at the time God had said. <sup>3</sup> Abraham named his son Isaac, <sup>4</sup> and when the boy was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, just as God had commanded.

<sup>5</sup> Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born, <sup>6</sup> and Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. And now everyone will laugh with me. <sup>7</sup> Who would have dared to tell Abraham that someday I would have a child? But in his old age, I have given him a son."

### Sermon

"Laugh with Me"

# GO IN GOD'S NAME

## \* Song

*You Shall Go Out with Joy*

# 847 VT

THE TREES OF THE FIELD by Steffi Geiser Rubin, Stuart Dauermann  
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You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.  
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
The trees of the field will clap their hands,  
while you go out with joy.

## \* Benediction

### Postlude

*You'll Never Walk Alone*

Rodger/Hammerstein II

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Minister of Music .....	Vanessa Morton
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music .....	Vanessa Morton
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Violinist .....	Bill Kinzie
Tech & Media Director .....	Kevin Beers

## Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

PASS ME NOT. 8 5 8 5 with Refrain

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

William H. Doane, 1832-1915



1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;
2. Let me at Thy throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief,
3. Trust - ing on - ly in Thy mer - it, Would I seek Thy face;
4. Thou the Spring of all my com - fort, More than life for me,



While on oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.  
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion. Help my un - be - lief.  
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, Save me by Thy grace.  
 Whom have I on earth be - side Thee? Whom in heaven but Thee?



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry.



While on oth - ers Thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

