



Wrestling  
with God



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 24, 2023

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

Welcome

Prelude Duet

*Sonatina*

L. Van Beethoven

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

We gather here in anticipation, seeking an encounter with our Holy God, who comes among us when we least expect it, who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts, who richly blesses us, and calls us each by name. Let's worship God together!

### \* Opening Prayer

Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed. In honor of his persistence you gave him a new name. Teach us to persist in the face of struggle, and call us by name. Bless us with your grace sufficient for daily living. Amen

### \* Opening Song

*Your Grace Is Enough*

# 167 VT

*Your Grace Is Enough* by Matt Maher

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### Verse 1:

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.

You lead us by still waters into mercy,

and nothing can keep us apart.

So remember your people, remember your children,

remember your promise, O God.

*Refrain:*

*Your grace is enough, your grace is enough,  
your grace is enough for me.  
Your grace is enough, your grace is enough,  
your grace is enough for me.*

*Verse 2:*

Great is your love and justice, God.  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of your salvation,  
and all your people sing along.  
So remember your people, remember your children,  
remember your promise, O God.

*Refrain*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

**Children's Time** (after the song, children, over 5, can go to Children's Church)

**Song**

*Blessed Be Your Name*

# 6 3 7 VT

*Blessed Be Your Name* by Beth Redman, Matt Redman  
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Verse 1:

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,  
where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.  
Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

*Refrain:*

*Ev'ry blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
When the storm clouds gather in, Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name."*

Verse 2:

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

*Refrain:*

*Ev'ry blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
When the storm clouds gather in, Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name."*

Bridge (2x):

You give and take away, you give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."

*Refrain*

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 32:9-13, NRSVUE

<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' <sup>10</sup> I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. <sup>11</sup> Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. <sup>12</sup> Yet you have said, 'I will surely do you good and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.'"

<sup>13</sup> So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau.

## Congregational Prayer

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Special Music

*Lord, I Need You*

Reeves, Stanfill, Maher, Nockels, Carson

*Lord, I Need You* by Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels, and Daniel Carson

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# Thoughts on Giving

Galatians 6:9-10 CEV

Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up. We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord. Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up. We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord.

## Song

*Over My Head*

# 594 VT

### *Refrain:*

*Over my head, I hear music in the air;  
over my head, I hear music in the air;  
over my head, I hear music in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.*

### Verse 1:

Leader: Oh, when the world is silent,

**All: I hear music in the air;**

Leader: oh, when the world is silent,

**All: I hear music in the air;**

Leader: oh, when the world is silent,

**All: I hear music in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.**

*Refrain*

### Verse 2:

Leader: And when I'm feeling lonely,

**All: I hear music in the air,** <sup>[SEP]</sup>

Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely,

**All: I hear music in the air,**

Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely,

**All: I hear music in the air,  
there must be a God somewhere.**

*Refrain*

### Verse 3:

Leader: Now when I think on Jesus,

**All: I hear music in the air,**

Leader: now when I think on Jesus,

**All: I hear music in the air,**

Leader: now when I think on Jesus,

All: I hear music in the air,  
there must be a God somewhere.

*Refrain*

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Genesis 32:22-30, NRSVUE

#### Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

<sup>22</sup> The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

### Sermon

"Wrestling with God"

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \* Song

*Blessed Assurance*

# 435 VT

#### Verse 1:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Verse 2:

Perfect communion, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*Refrain*

Verse 3:

Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Martin/Gabriel

\* Please stand as able and led



|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Ministers</b> .....       | <b>All Members</b>             |
| Pastor.....                  | David Whitten                  |
| Minister of Music .....      | Vanessa Morton                 |
| Worship Leader .....         | Carol Goss                     |
| Children's Time .....        | Sarah Hartman                  |
| Special Music .....          | David Whitten & Vanessa Morton |
| Flautist .....               | Sarah Hartman                  |
| Guitarist.....               | David Whitten                  |
| Violinist .....              | Bill Kinzie                    |
| Tech & Media Assistant ..... | Shaun Finchum                  |