

Where you go I will go,  
and where you stay I will stay.  
Your people will be my people  
and your God my God.

Ruth 1:16



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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October 15, 2023

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

## Welcome

### Prelude

*When I Look into Your Holiness*

Wayne & Cathy Perrin

*When I Look into Your Holiness* by Wayne Perrin, Cathy Perrin  
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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

*The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*

**One:** Here in this place, there are no foreigners,  
**Many:** for all are welcome in God's house.  
**One:** Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
**Many:** for love is the language of faith.  
**One:** Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
**Many:** for God dwells in each of us.  
**One:** Come, let us worship in unity and love.

### \* Opening Prayer

God of the people, your servant Ruth showed great love when she clung to Naomi. Teach us to show great compassion, and to turn to you when we are in need. Amen.

### \* Opening Song

*Come, Thou Fount*

# 563 VT

Verse 1:

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Verse 2:

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by thy help I'm come,  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

Verse 3:

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

**Song**

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

# 365 VT

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* by Rick Founds

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Verse 1:

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.

*Refrain:*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

## Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 146, NRSVUE

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! <sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. <sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

## Congregational Prayer

### WORSHIP IN GIVING

#### Special Music

*Safety*

#### Thoughts on Giving

*Giving Magazine*

##### Live Simply: Face the Truth

Why is it so hard to live simply? Daily we face a complex world of our own making. We feel pushed and pulled by forces beyond

our control. And when things feel like they are out of our control, we often feel afraid. We become like the disciples in the boat with Jesus. We are afraid that we are perishing, tossed about by the wind and the waves of our lives.

Read Mark 4:37-41 and imagine being one of the disciples in the boat. When you decide to wake Jesus up, what do you expect of him? What do you need from Jesus in the midst of the storms of your life? Can you hear Jesus's question in the moments of calm in your life? "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

Jesus's question can lead us to hear in the moments if the psalmist, "Create in me, O God...Put a new and right spirit within me...Do not cast me away...Do not take away...Restore to me...Sustain in me." Look at all that God does in our lives. Where do we focus? On the wind and waves? Can we focus instead on what God provides? And how do our choices matter for what we see?

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Song

*I Will Trust in the Lord*

#### Verse 1:

I will trust in the Lord, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.  
I will trust in the Lord, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.

#### Verse 2:

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right till I die.  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right till I die.

#### Verse 3:

I'm going to stay on my bended knees, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees till I die.

I'm going to stay on my bended knees, <sup>(Repeat)</sup>  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees till I die.

## Scripture Lesson

Ruth 1:1-17, NRSVUE

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." <sup>14</sup> Then

they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

## Sermon

“I Pledge Myself to Thee”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

### \* Song

*Bless the Arms That Comfort*

# 527 VT

#### Verse 1:

Bless the arms that comfort, strong to shoulder care,  
gentle in their healing, reaching through despair.  
Bless the hands that labor Martha’s daily deeds;  
Mary’s precious ointment, balm for diff’rent needs.

#### Verse 2:

Bless the ears that listen, sharing joys and fears—  
laughing in our triumphs, weeping with our tears.  
Bless the eyes whose wisdom sees through pride’s façade,  
cherishing our weakness with the heart of God.

#### Verse 3:

Bless the feet that follow, like Naomi’s Ruth—  
constant friend through sorrow, speaking holy truth:  
Though our journeys lead us far in time and space,  
God anoints companions, ministers of grace.

### \* Benediction

# Postlude

## *Instruments of Your Peace*

arr. Fettke

*Instruments of Your Peace* by Kirk & Deby Dearman

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\* Please stand as able and led



|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Ministers</b> .....      | <b>All Members</b> |
| Pastor .....                | David Whitten      |
| Minister of Music .....     | Vanessa Morton     |
| Worship Leader .....        | Susan Mbeboh       |
| Children's Time .....       | Sarah Hartman      |
| Special Music .....         | Vanessa Morton     |
| Flautist .....              | Sarah Hartman      |
| Guitarist .....             | David Whitten      |
| Tech & Media Director ..... | Kevin Beers        |