



*“Be still,
and know that
I am God.”*

PSALM 46:10



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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Stewardship Sunday

Welcome

Prelude *Road to Listervarna – The Morris Dance* var. Jessica Walsh

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* **Opening Words** Matthew 12:25 NIV

Jesus once said, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

* **Opening Prayer**

Mighty God, your servant Rehoboam divided your kingdom with his tyranny, yet you remained faithful to both kingdoms, even in the midst of conflict. Show us your presence in conflict, and help us to resolve our differences, uniting this world in your name. Amen.

* **Opening 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)

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children's Time (children, under 5, can go to Children's Church)

Song

When Peace Like A River

#617 VT

Verse 1:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

*It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul.)
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Verse 2:

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Redeemed! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:
My sin—not in part, but the whole—
is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

Verse 4:

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 46 NRSVUE

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶ The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts. ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.” ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Congregational Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Reflection

Douglas E. Wagner

Thoughts on Giving

Giving Magazine

Live Simply: Share Enough

What does contentment feel like? This is a difficult question in our current culture. When surveys have asked “How much is enough?” responses have been consistently “20 percent more than I have now.” If that is true, how do we break the endless circle that this leads us toward? It is always “20 percent more.” We are told over and over every day: “You don’t have enough...What you have is fragile and could be gone at any moment...You have to go get more!” These messages come from a world focused on scarcity.

In this setting how do we understand our relationship with God? God is creator and we are God’s creatures. How do we live in relationship with our creator? Martin Luther reminds us in his explanation of the first article of the Apostles’ Creed “that God has created me and all that exists...God daily and abundantly provides...all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life...out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!? It is in this relationship that God has abundantly provided us with all that we need. Living in that abundance, we give of the blessings we have received.

If we focus on the scarcity, we never have enough. When we focus on God’s abundant blessings, there is more that we can ever imagine. Learning from Paul’s message to the Philippians, we can be content with what we have because we know that we are blessed and can “do all things through him who strengthens us.”

Offertory

You Can’t Beat God Giving

Doris Akers

You Can’t Beat God Giving by Doris Akers

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* **Doxology**

Praise God from Whom

#71B VT

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

* **Offertory Prayer**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

I Kings 12:1-17 CEB

12 Rehoboam went to Shechem where all Israel had come to make him king. ² When Jeroboam, Nebat's son, heard the news, he returned from Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon. ³ The people sent and called for Jeroboam, who along with the entire Israelite assembly went and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ "Your father made our workload very hard for us. If you will lessen the demands your father made of us and lighten the heavy workload he demanded from us, then we will serve you."

⁵ He answered them, "Come back in three days." So the people left. ⁶ King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive. "What do you advise?" Rehoboam asked. "How should I respond to these people?"

⁷ "If you will be a servant to this people by answering them and speaking good words today," they replied, "then they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But Rehoboam ignored the advice the elders gave him and instead sought the counsel of the young advisors who had grown up with him and now served him. ⁹ "What do you advise?" he asked them. "How should we respond to these people who have said to me, 'Lighten the workload your father demanded of us?'"

¹⁰ The young people who had grown up with him said to him, "This people said to you, 'Your father made our workload heavy; lighten it for us!' Now this is what you should say to them: 'My baby finger is thicker than my father's entire waist!'" ¹¹ So if my father made your

workload heavy, I'll make it even heavier! If my father disciplined you with whips, I'll do it with scorpions!"

¹² Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had specified when he said, "Come back to me in three days." ¹³ The king then answered the people harshly. He ignored the elders' advice ¹⁴ and instead followed the young people's advice. He said, "My father made your workload heavy, but I'll make it even heavier! My father disciplined you with whips, but I'll do it with scorpions!"

¹⁵ The king didn't listen to the people because this turn of events came from the Lord so that he might keep the promise he delivered through Ahijah from Shiloh concerning Jeroboam, Nebat's son. ¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king wouldn't listen to them, the people answered the king: "Why should we care about David? We have no stake in Jesse's son! Go back to your homes, Israel! You better look after your own house now, David!"

Then the Israelites went back to their homes, ¹⁷ and Rehoboam ruled over only the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.

Sermon

"Good Advice Not Taken"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Song

My Hope is Built

#621 VT

Verse 1:

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

Verse 2:

In ev'ry rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Not earth, nor hell, my soul can move;
I rest upon unchanging love.
I trust his righteous character,
his counsel, promise, and his pow'r.

Refrain

Verse 4:

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain

*** Benediction**

Postlude

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Minister of Music	Vanessa Morton
Prelude Duet	Sarah Hartman & Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader	Ann Andrus
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Our Handbell Choir
Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Gail Rhodes, Ken Heatwole, Kevin Beers, Sandy Faw, Vanessa Morton and Sarah Hartman ^(director)	
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Tech & Media Director	Kevin Beers