



If  
**GOD**

is

**GOD,**

then  
follow  
him...



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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November 5, 2023

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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## Welcome

## Prelude

### *Give Me a Clean Heart*

arr. Albert Denis Tessler

*Give Me a Clean Heart* by Margaret J. Douroux, arr. Albert Denis Tessler  
© 1970 Douroux, Margaret Pleasant (Admin. by Rev. Earl A. Pleasant Publishing)  
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## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C38sun9.htm>

Reader 1: Always there is a choice: The God of Christ Jesus or those material things for which this world will sell its soul? We cannot have it both ways.

*Reader 2: As the prophet Elijah declared long ago: "How long does it take to make up your mind? If the Lord is God, then follow him. If idols are your gods, then get real and admit you serve them."*

**People:** The Lord is our God and greatly to be praised He is to be honored above all worldly gods. We will declare God's glory among the nations and celebrate God's love among all races on earth.

### \* Opening Prayer

God of Elijah, with great fire you made your presence known to the worshipers of Baal. Help us to resist the temptation to place our trust and faith in anything other than you. Receive our worship and strengthen our faith. Amen.

\* **Opening Song**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Graham Kendrick

*Shine, Jesus, Shine* by Graham Kendrick

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Verse 1:

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus:

*Shine, Jesus, shine.  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light*

Verse 2:

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

Verse 3:

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

*Chorus*

**CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY**

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

## Song

### *Change My Heart, O God*

Eddie Espinosa

*Change My Heart, O God* by Eddie Espinosa

© 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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#### Chorus:

*Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true;  
Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like You.*

#### Verse:

You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

*Chorus*

## Old Testament Reading

Psalm 51:10-12 NRSV

- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

## Congregational Prayer

### WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Special Music

### *Changed*

Walter Hawkins

*Changed* by Walter Hawkins

© 1976 Bud John Music, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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## Thoughts on Giving

I Chronicles 29:11 CEB

To you, Lord, belong greatness and power, honor, splendor,  
and majesty, because everything in heaven and on earth  
belongs to you. Yours, Lord, is the kingship, and you are  
honored as head of all.

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

**Song**

*Ancient Words*

Lynn DeShazo

"Ancient Words" by Lynn DeShazo

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Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.

*Chorus:*

*Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

*Chorus*

We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

**Scripture Lesson**

1 Kings 18:20-39 NIV

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

<sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

<sup>23</sup> Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

<sup>25</sup> Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” <sup>26</sup> So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

<sup>27</sup> At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” <sup>28</sup> So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup> Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. <sup>31</sup> Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” <sup>32</sup> With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

<sup>33</sup> He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on

the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

<sup>34</sup> “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time.

<sup>35</sup> The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

<sup>36</sup> At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

<sup>37</sup> Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

<sup>39</sup> When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

## Sermon

“If God is God”

# GO IN GOD’S NAME

\* Song

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

#443 VT

### Verse 1:

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I have decided to follow Jesus—

no turning back, no turning back.

### Verse 2:

The world behind me,

the cross before me;

the world behind me,

the cross before me;

Verse 3:

Though none go with me,  
I still will follow.  
Though none go with me,  
I still will follow.

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Open My Eyes*

Bob Cull

*Open My Eyes* by Bob Cull

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\* Please stand as able and led



**Ministers ..... All Members**

Pastor.....David Whitten

Minister of Music ..... Vanessa Morton

Worship Leader ..... Shontell Giles

Children's Time ..... Sarah Hartman

Special Music ..... Vanessa Morton

Guitarist.....David Whitten

Tech & Media Director .....Kevin Beers