



First Sunday after
CHRISTMAS



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

December 31, 2023

Ist Sunday after Christmas

We gather today, trusting God's guidance for the new year. Welcome to worship, one and all.

Welcome

Prelude

The Prayer

???

The Prayer by David Foster, Carole Sager, Alberto Testa, Tony Renis
© 1999
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

Isaiah 43:19 NLT

One: For the Lord says, "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?"

Many: **I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.**

* Opening Prayer

<http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>

O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

Sing a New World into Being

809 VT

Verse 1:

Sing a new world into being.

Sound a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings.
Lend your voice and dare to dream:
dream a church where all who worship
find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being.
Sing as Christ inspires your song.

Verse 2:

Sing a new world into being
where each gender, class, and race
brings its rainbow gifts and colors
to God's limitless embrace;
where the lines that once divided
form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being:
risk transforming heart and mind.

Verse 3:

Sing a new world into being
where the homeless find a home;
where no children ever hunger,
but are filled with God's shalom;
where all people work for justice;
where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being:
raise the harmonies of peace.

Verse 4:

Sing a new world into being.
Join the ancient prophet's cry
for a time of health and plenty
when all tears have been wiped dry;
when compassion flows like waters,
pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being:
live the promise you believe.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

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

Hymn

Hallelujah, Salvation, and Glory

69 VT

Part 1:

Hallelujah, salvation and glory,
honor and power unto the Lord our God.
For the Lord our God is mighty;
yes, the Lord our God is omnipotent.
The Lord our God, he is wonderful.

Part 2:

All praises be to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
He is wonderful!
All praises be to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
He is wonderful!

Part 3:

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, he is wonderful!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, he is wonderful!

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 100 CEV

The Lord Is God

100 Shout praises to the Lord, everyone on this earth. ² Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship the Lord!

³ You know the Lord is God! He created us, and we belong to him; we are his people, the sheep in his pasture.

⁴ Be thankful and praise the Lord as you enter his temple. ⁵ The Lord is good! His love and faithfulness will last forever.

Congregational Prayer

Verse 1:

Beyond a dying sun I saw a vision on the sea
of golden sails full billowed on the wind. (on the wind.)
And echoing above the waves a voice called after me,
“God’s dwelling place is with you till the end.” (till the end.)

*Refrain: I see a new world coming when ev’ryone is free!
And all shall be God’s people in justice, love, and peace.*

Verse 2:

For God at last shall wipe away the tears from ev’ry eye.
The sting of death shall pierce the heart no more. (heart no more.)
When grieving turns to laughter all the pain from us shall fly,
and former ways lie bleached upon the shore. (on the shore.)

Refrain

Verse 3:

Though hatred rages on the wind and wars defile the land,
I see those golden sails still coming strong, (coming strong.)
for through the eyes of faith still shines the vision of the Lamb,
and o’er a weary earth there rings this song. (rings this song.)

Refrain

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving (in unison)

Carol Penner, Conrad Penner College

Let us be a witness to God: immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving. A loving, supportive community reaching out to those in need. May God accept the gifts we offer, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Special Music

A Christmas Hallelujah

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Revelation 21:1-5a NRSVUE

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ⁴ "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Sermon

"Some Things New"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

#669 VT

Soon and Very Soon by Andraé Crouch

© 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Crouch Music Corp. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

Verse 1:

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 2:

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,

no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 3:

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 4:

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!










*** Benediction**

Postlude

See Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Charles Wesley

* Please stand as able and led

        	
Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Guest Speaker	Kate Jacobsen
Minister of Music	Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader	Barbara Beers
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Barbara Beers
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Dir. of Media & Tech.	Kevin Beers