

A photograph of four young men standing in a forest, viewed from behind. They are standing in a line, with their arms around each other's shoulders, looking out over a body of water (a lake or river) through the trees. The man on the far left is wearing a dark grey hoodie. The man next to him is wearing a light blue and white striped t-shirt. The man next to that is wearing a red t-shirt. The man on the far right is wearing a red hoodie. They are standing in front of a dark wooden sign that has the text "WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?" written on it in a stylized, white, gothic font. The background shows tall trees and a clear blue sky.

WHAT ARE
FRIENDS FOR?



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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January 7, 2024

Ist Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

arr. Derek Haydn

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-11.html>

One: We may be thirsty and parched, like an un-watered garden, so we come into God's presence:

Many: **The Divine One is a spring of water!**

One: We may be weary from worry and work so we come into God's presence:

Many: **The Holy One offers us Sabbath rest!**

One: We may be lost or confused so we come into God's presence:

Many: **The Wise One offers us welcome and guidance!**

One: We may be bent over with struggle or pain, so we come into God's presence:

Many: **The Healing One empowers us to stand strong!**

* Prayer

O God of all goodness, you welcome us, forgive us and heal us. You seek us out from places where we have hidden from you. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. Reveal yourself to us in this moment. Let us know your presence so that we may bless you: Bless you, O God! Bless your holy name! Amen.

* **Song**

Christ Is Alive, and Goes Before Us

565 VT

Christ Is Alive, and Goes Before Us by Brian Wren
© 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

Refrain:

*Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new,
our God is making all things new.*

Verse 1:

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Refrain

Verse 2:

For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children (children under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

Song

Guide My Feet

816 VT

Verse 1:

Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Verse 2:

Hold my hand while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Hold my hand while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Verse 3:

Stand by me while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Stand by me while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Verse 4:

I'm your child while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
I'm your child while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
I'm your child while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Verse 5:

Search my heart while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Search my heart while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Verse 6:

Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 103:6-14 NRSVUE

⁶The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as

the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

Pastoral Prayer

Song *10,000 Reasons / Bless the Lord* # 1 | 1 | 1 | VT

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman
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Refrain:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O my soul worships your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.*

Verse 1:

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. *[Refrain]*

Verse 2:

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *[Refrain]*

Verse 3:

And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come,
still, my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore! *[Refrain]*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul worships your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name,
worship Your Holy name; worship Your Holy name.*

WORSHIP IN GIVING

How Can We Thank God Enough For You?

Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Anna Welch & neighbors, Asha Solanky, Ashok Solanky, Ava Beers, Barbara Beers, Barbara McCann, Belinda Layman, Ben Mbecha, Bill Kinzie, Bob Gangwer, Carol Goss, David Brunk, David Whitten, Debbie Morris, Dolly Guyer, Don Ziegler, Faye Urban, Floyd Herdrich, Freda Wilkins, Gail Rhodes, Ginny Heatwole, Isaiah Lipato, Jackie Allgood, Janet Brunk, Jeff Goss, Joel Guyer, Joel Guyer, Jon Hartman, Jori Carter, Judy McCloud, June Diehl, Kate Jacobsen, Ken Heatwole, Kevin Beers, Madelyn Finchum, Marcia Forest, Mike Andrus, Mike Faus, Nancy Heishman, Neria Shelton, Pat Gangwer, Sandra Lynch, Sandy Faw, Sarah Hartman, Savannah Lipato, Shaun Finchum, Shawn Baker, Shontell Giles, Susan Mbeboh, Susan Robertson, Terrie Glass, The Ladies Circle, Thoko Lipato, Zherina Whitten

Special Music *When Pain or Sorrow / Hold On*

Adam M. L. Tice

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Mark 2:1-12 NRSVUE

2 When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. 3 Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God

alone?”⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—¹¹ “I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.”¹² And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Sermon

“What Are Friends For?”

Invitation to Anointing

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Song**

Anointing Fall on Me

#645 VT

Anointing Fall on Me by Donn C. Thomas; © 1992 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
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There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit In This Place

Doris Akers

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Anointing fall on me. Anointing fall on me.

Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me.

Anointing fall on me.

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know that it’s the presence of the Lord.

Chorus

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;*

*And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we know that we'll have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive,
'Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." *Chorus*

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound and cannot enter in;
You can make it right if you will yield,
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel. *Chorus*


















*** Benediction**

Postlude

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

* Please stand as able and led

-                 
- Ministers** **All Members**
Pastor.....David Whitten
Minister of Music Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader Alyce Newman
Children's Time Sarah Hartman
Special Music Vanessa Morton
Flautist Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....David Whitten
Dir. of Media & Tech.....Kevin Beers