



Fourth
Sunday
of
Lent



West Richmond Church of the Brethren
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During the season of Lent, may we look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:2), and grow in love toward God and one another. Welcome to worship.

Welcome

Prelude Duet

The Butterfly

Jessica Walsh

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

One: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:

That it is not we who chose Christ,

All: but Christ who chose us,

Two: That we are not here because of our goodness

All: but because of Christ’s grace,

One: That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

All: but to allow Christ to enlighten us,

Two: That we have not come to be entertained

All: but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

* Opening Prayer

Book of Common Worship

We praise you, God—in the sanctuary and under the stars; for your greatness and for your goodness; with loud hymns and quiet prayers; with helping hands and dancing feet; with all our breath and with all creation; We praise you, God. Amen.

* Opening Song

We Praise Thee, O God

9 | VT

Verse 1:

We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

*Refrain: Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

Verse 2:

We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light
who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

Refrain

Verse 3:

We praise thee, O God, for the joy thou hast giv'n
to thy saints in communion, these foretastes of heav'n.

Refrain

Verse 4:

Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love.
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Blessing the Books

Time with Our Children

Song

Lord, I Need You

155 VT

Lord, I Need You by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher
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Verse 1:

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

Refrain:

*Lord, I need you, oh, I need you. Ev'ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness; O God, how I need you.*

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

Refrain

Bridge:

So, teach my song to rise to you
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

Refrain

Prayer of Intercession

<http://www.rockies.net/>

Merciful God of compassion and justice, have mercy on us as we confess our sin. We are not the stewards Christ calls us to be. Riches possess us while others go hungry. We mismanage creation with our pollution and strife to obtain ever more than we already have. We abuse your provision for us by our selfish desires. Help us hear again Christ's call to be faithful, and through him forgive us as we repent of our sin and turn from it.

Loving God, the widow of Zarephath, with a handful of flour and a drop of oil fed the prophet Elijah before her child and herself. God, teach us the joy of hospitality which welcomes friend and stranger, neighbor and enemy, and so finds You feasting among us.

God of Abundance, the widow of Jerusalem, with two small coins offered to you her love, her worship and all she had. Teach us the joy of giving freely, which counts nothing as ours by right, but willingly shares and so finds you sharing with us.

God of Resurrection, Christ Jesus, with his whole being sacrificed himself for the sake of your love for us. Teach us the joy of giving ourselves to you, so that we yearn for your presence, long for your salvation, and so find you living in us.

God of Mercy, it is ever your will that we love and work and pray for those who need bread and of shelter, of healing and of wholeness. Hear the prayers we make for those of our world—those of our

community, and those of our family who are in need. We lift before you now in the silence of our hearts and with the words of our lips.

Bless we pray, O God, your church throughout the world and help it to fulfil the purpose you have given it. Especially we pray for our own congregation. Guide us each day and help us to give as completely as we have received. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. Amen

Special Music *When Pain or Sorrow / Hold On* Adam M. L. Tice

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Mark 12:41-44 CEB

⁴¹ Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. ⁴² One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. ⁴³ Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury. ⁴⁴ All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on.”

Song *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* #306 VT

Verse 1:

I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Verse 2:

In my trials, Lord, walk with me. In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Verse 3:

When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me. When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Mark 12:28-34, NRSVUE

The First Commandment

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Sermon

"Relationship not Ritual"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Song

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

#638 VT

Verse 1:

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Verse 2:

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 3:

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Verse 4:

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

* **Benediction** (in unison)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Postlude

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Gladden/Smith

* Please stand as able and led



MinistersAll Members

- Pastor David Whitten
- Minister of Music..... Vanessa Morton
- Worship Leader..... Barbara Beers & Sarah Hartman
- Children’s Time.....Sarah Hartman
- Special Music.....Vanessa Morton & David Whitten
- FlautistSarah Hartman
- Guitarist David Whitten
- Dir. of Media & Tech.Kevin Beers