

life

AFTER
EASTER





West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

The risen Jesus invites us into peace as we touch his scarred body.
May we, the body of Christ, share his peace with one another by
touching each other's lives with love.

Welcome

Prelude

This Is the Air I Breathe

Marie Barnett

This Is the Air I Breathe by Marie Barnett

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/2010/09/25th-sunday-in-ordinary-timeproper-20-c.html>

One: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

Many: **God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.**

One: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope
for our pain.

Many: **God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together
as one people.**

One: We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God
in faith and truth.

Many: **Alleluia! Amen!**

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Come, We That Love

3 | ^{VT}

Verse 1:

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.

Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion.

We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Verse 2:

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,
before we reach the heav'nly fields, before we reach the heav'nly fields,
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Then let our songs abound, and ev'ry tear be dry.
We're marching thro' Immanuel's ground,
we're marching thro' Immanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 143: 1-2, 5-8 NRSVUE

¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. ² Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

⁵ I remember the days of old; I think about all your deeds; I meditate on the works of your hands. ⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah*

⁷ Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

⁸ Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Song

Somebody Prayed for Me

698 ^{VT}

Verse 1:

Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind,
took the time to pray for me.

I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed,
I'm so glad they prayed for me.

Verse 2:

The people prayed for me, had me on their mind,
took the time to pray for me.
I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed,
I'm so glad they prayed for me.

Verse 3:

My Jesus prayed for me, had me on his mind,
took the time to pray for me.
I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed,
I'm so glad he prayed for me.

Pastoral Prayer

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/2010/09/25th-sunday-in-ordinary-timeproper-20-c.html>

Healing God, when dismay is our daily companion, you come to touch us with your healing hope. When grief falls on us like a wall of bricks, you rebuild our joy with your comfort and love.

Jesus Christ, Faithful Spirit, when bullies pick on us, you stand by our side. When neighbors taunt us for choosing to be faithful, you commend us for our wisdom.

Teaching Spirit, when we are heart-sick over the brokenness of our lives, your compassion races to bring your gentle balm. When our joy is gone and we are stained by the world's cruelty, you bathe us in the tears flowing from God's broken heart.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly

Have you ever considered the purpose of obtaining wealth? Is it to be able to buy whatever catches your eye at any given moment? Is the goal to support any cause or ideal that comes to your attention? Or perhaps it's to simply be able to have enough money to "get by."

None of those are the best motivation for earning a paycheck.

Instead, what if we chose to pursue an income that we can use in service to God? What would that look like? It's more about what we do with what we earn than the balance in our checking account. In Proverbs 3:9, we read that we should, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."

Whatever you're giving today, whatever amount you'll give this year, devote your pursuit and use of money to honoring God first and foremost.

Special Music

Lamb of God

arr. Mark Hayes

Lamb of God by Twila Paris

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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Acts 3:1-10 NRSVUE

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Song

We Are One in the Spirit

#387 ^{VT}

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love by Peter Scholtes

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Verse 1:

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Verse 2:

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain

Verse 3:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
we will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Refrain

Sermon

“A Gate Called Beautiful”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Song** *What a Fellowship/Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* #160 ^{VT}

Verse 1:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning ^(on Jesus), *leaning* ^(on Jesus), *safe and secure from all alarms;*
leaning ^(on Jesus), *leaning* ^(on Jesus), *leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Verse 2:

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Verse 3:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

* **Benediction**

Postlude

The Beautiful Garden of Prayer

Scholl/Fillmore

Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Minister of Music	Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader	Susan Robertson
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Ken Heatwole
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Dir. of Media & Tech.....	Kevin Beers