

life

AFTER
EASTER



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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Happy Easter! (Yes, it's still that season!) And happy Mother's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a mom or mom-figure. Welcome to worship.

Welcome

Prelude

Sweeter Than the Day Before

arr. Kenneth Morris

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

* Opening Prayer

#857 VT

Holy God, you call us together to reflect on your Word and our life in your world. Be with us now as we sing and pray together, that we may hear your voice and understand your way. This we pray through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

* Opening Song

How Great Is Our God

#116 VT

How Great Is Our God by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves
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Verse 1:

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty,
let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

Refrain:

How great is our God!

Sing with me: how great is our God!

And all will see how great,

how great is our God!

Verse 2:

And age to age, he stands, and time is in his hands;

beginning and the end, beginning and the end.

The Godhead, Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son,

the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

Refrain

Bridge:

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing, how great is our God!

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (at its end, children go to Children's Church)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 16:1-6

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, ²and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. ⁴He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

Verse 1:

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer.

Verse 2:

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer!

Verse 3:

Are we weak and heavy laden, 'cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Jesus' arms will take and shield thee—thou wilt find a solace there.

Congregational Prayer <http://www.bamabasinchurches.org.uk/a-call-to-worship-on-mothering-sunday/>

Reader 1: Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives. Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms:

Reader 2: *“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you....”*
 (Isaiah 66:13)

People: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Reader 1: Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

Reader 2: *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!”* (Isaiah 49:15)

People: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Reader 1: David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

Reader 2: “But I have stilled and quietened my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.” (Psalm 131:2)

People: Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Reader 1: Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

Reader 2: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Matthew 23:37)

People: Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Reader 1: Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

Reader 2: “...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.” (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

People: Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care. Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

Merciful God, the gifts we bring are so small in comparison to the vast needs in our world—nowhere near enough to save the thousands dying of starvation all around the world, or even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city. Yet we have brought what we can. As You once multiplied the five small loaves and two fish, multiply these gifts as well, so that, once again, the hungry may receive all they need, and more. Amen.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 16:7-16 NRSVUE

⁷The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." ¹⁰The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." ¹¹And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.

¹²He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."

¹³So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi," for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?"

¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Response to the Word (in unison)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Song

Blessed Be Your Name

#637 ^{VT}

Blessed Be Your Name by Beth Redman, Matt Redman
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Verse 1:

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.
Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

Refrain:

*Ev'ry blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the storm clouds gather in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name."*

Verse 2:

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.
Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

Refrain

Bridge: (2x)

You give and take away, you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."

Refrain

Sermon

"The God Who Sees Me"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Closing Song

Faith of Our Mothers

#575 ^{VT}

Verse 1:

Faith of our mothers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Refrain:

*Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.*

Verse 2:

The mothers chained in prison cells
were still in heart and conscience free,
and bless'd would be their children's fate
if they, like them, should die for thee!

Refrain

Verse 3:

Faith of our mothers, we will love both
friend and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee, too, as love knows how,
by saving word and faithful life!

Refrain

* **Benediction**

Go into your week, knowing that you are embraced by the love of God; a love that is sweeter and more tender than any you have ever known.

Postlude

It's in My Heart

arr. J. G. Boersma

It's in My Heart by Arthur Slater

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** Please stand as able and led*



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