

A photograph of a rustic wooden door with a teal frame and a lantern on a textured wall. The door is made of weathered wood with a grid pattern and metal studs. The frame is painted a vibrant teal color. To the right of the door, a black lantern with a glass enclosure is mounted on the wall. The wall has a warm, textured appearance. The text 'ASK, SEEK, KNOCK' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, bold, black font with a white outline.

**ASK,
SEEK,
KNOCK**



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 8, 2024

National Grandparents Day

Welcome

Prelude

I Would Be True

Lucy Ann Warriner

I Would Be True by Joseph Yates Peek, Lucy Ann Warriner
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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* **Call to Worship** (One/People)

Psalm 138:1-2 CEB

I give thanks to you with all my heart, LORD. I sing your praise
before all other gods.

**I bow toward your holy temple and thank your name for your
loyal love and faithfulness ...**

because you have made your name and word greater than
everything else.

**On the day I cried out, you answered me. You encouraged me
with inner strength.**

* **Opening Prayer**

Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving,
deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have
shown toward us, Your people. When we call out to You, You
answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go
on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing
beside us. And so we come before You gratitude and praise,
offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Open our eyes
to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize
Your voice. And then send us out from here, to live and work in

the world as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

* **Opening Song**

Fairest Lord Jesus

#117 ^{HWB}

Verse 1:

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and Mary's Son,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Verse 2:

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Verse 3:

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Verse 4:

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man,
glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children' Time (after, children may go to Children's Church)

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 138:4-8 CEB

⁴ Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, Lord, when they hear what you say. ⁵ Let them sing about the Lord's ways because the Lord's glory is so great! ⁶ Even though the Lord is

high, he can still see the lowly, but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.

⁷Whenever I am in deep trouble, you make me live again; you send your power against my enemies' wrath; you save me with your strong hand. ⁸The Lord will do all this for my sake.

Your faithful love lasts forever, Lord! Don't let go of what your hands have made.

Pastoral Prayer

Song

Your Grace Is Enough

#167 ^{VT}

Verse 1:

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.

You lead us by still waters into mercy,
and nothing can keep us apart.

So remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise, O God.

Refrain:

*Your grace is enough, your grace is enough,
your grace is enough for me.*

*Your grace is enough, your grace is enough,
your grace is enough for me.*

Verse 2:

Great is your love and justice, God.

You use the weak to lead the strong.

You lead us in the song of your salvation,
and all your people sing along.

So remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise, O God.

Refrain

Your grace is enough, heaven reaches out to us.

Your grace is enough for me.

God, I sing, your grace is enough. I'm covered in your love.

Your grace is enough for me, for me.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Stewardship Moment

Russ Matteson

Living as disciples of Jesus involves being transformed into Christ's image and having our orientation transformed from that of a consumer to that of a steward ^(Romans 12:1-2). Being a trustee of God's gifts in our lives doesn't come naturally. It requires intentionality and training. This is a mysterious thing and is part of the call extended by Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. In this short text Paul uses words that carry important images from his day.

The word Paul uses for "servant" is especially interesting. It is *huperetes*, which referred to a slave who would row on the lower tier of a two-tier galley ship. Some commentators have built on this imagery and said that Jesus is the captain whose hand is at the wheel, directing the vessel, while we work with the oars that have been given to us to move the vessel forward. **We are all invited to participate and "pull our weight" in the shared roles we have in moving the church forward. Each of us has our job, and Jesus desires willing and ready workers to do what needs to be done.**

The other word image is "steward," and here Paul uses the Greek word *oikonomos*, which referred to the chief servant in charge of a household. The chief steward controlled the staff, ordered supplies, and took care of related details, but he remained a servant nonetheless. Above all else the *oikonomos* needed to be reliable- trustworthy. When the master would leave home and tend to other matters, he relied on his *oikonomos* to care for matters until his return.

So how are we doing while the Master, Jesus, is away? What would Jesus say upon his return to our congregation after reviewing how we are working to move forward in mission and service? Are we using appropriately all that has been placed in our care?

Thoughts on Giving

#1016^{VT}

Jesus of love and leftovers, we struggle with what to share and how much is enough. Sometimes we are the disciples, quietly suggesting you send the needy crowds away. Sometimes we are the crowds, bringing only our desire to be close to you. When we have little, embolden us to share it. When we have nothing, welcome us to stay and eat. In giving and receiving, we participate in the miracle of enough. Thank you, Jesus.

Special Music

Taste and See

James F. Moore

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 7:7-12 NRSVUE

Ask, Search, Knock

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

¹² “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Song

God, Be the Love

#43^{VT}

O Christ Surround Me by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
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Verse 1:

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Verse 2:

Bind to myself the name of Holy;
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Verse 3:

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight;
flashing of lightning, strength of wind;
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Verse 4:

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above and always,
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Verse 5:

Christ in the eye of all who see me;
Christ in the ear that hears my voice;
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Sermon “Ask, Seek, Knock: Three Spiritual Disciplines”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Song**

Lift High the Cross

#321 ^{HWB}

Lift High the Cross by George William Kitchin, Michael Robert Newbolt, Sydney Hugo Nicholson

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Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Verse 1:

O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,
draw all the world to seek you once again.

Refrain

Verse 2:

From north and south, from east and west, we raise
in growing unison our song of praise.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

Refrain

Verse 4:

Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

Refrain

* **Benediction**

Postlude

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles, 1913

** Please stand as able and led*



Our thanks to all who have helped to prepare and
lead this morning's worship service, including:

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