



Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock.

Matthew 7:24 CEB



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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September 29, 2024

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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Welcome

Prelude

*Piano Concerto No. 21*

W. A. Mozart

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

Psalm 18:2-3 CEB

One: “The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer.

People: **My God is my rock—I take refuge in him!**

One: He’s my shield, my salvation’s strength

People: **My place of safety.”**

*All: We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth.*

### \* Opening Prayer

O God, eternal Holy God, we hide within your wings, within your everlasting arms as we sing our praises. Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust. Meet us in this hour of worship. Amen.

### \* Opening Song

*We Sing to You, O God*

#80<sup>VT</sup>

We Sing To You O God (Darwall's 148th) by Gracia Grindal, John Darwall  
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I We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth.  
Let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised,  
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

- 2 We wandered far from home, out in a desert land.  
You shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms,  
and sheltered us against the storm.
- 3 You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air,  
and trust in your unfailing care.
- 4 O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just,  
you are the God in whom we trust.

*Descant, verse 4:*

*O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Ah, you are our God in whom we trust.*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Children's Time

#### Song

*Rock of Ages*

Augustus Toplady

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,

all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

## Pastoral Prayer

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Stewardship Moment

James Forbes

*"Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'"* -Luke 19:17, NIV

There is no such thing as standing still in life. To be alive is to experience the ups and downs, the rewards, and the uncertainties of living in a fallen world. But don't give up. God will keep nudging and refining us because God loves us. The reward of work well done is often more work, more trust, more testing, and more engagement with the Master of the universe.

In the Parable of the Ten Minas in Luke, we are no longer talking about fish and bread. The ante has been raised and the setting is a nobleman's court. Many think Jesus is making a reference to an actual event involving the three sons of Herod

the Great following Herod's death in AD 4. One son, Archelaus-to whom Judea had been left as an inheritance-went to Rome to verify his title as a son of Herod the Great. Those listening would have quickly made the connection with this despised man who would be their king.

If the evil king Archelaus trusted his stewards, consider how much more God trusts us to care for what is God's. If an evil king rewards those who have been faithful to him, God also will reward those who are found faithful.

In this final emphasis Sunday, acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God. Encourage a recommitment to be wise, generous stewards of all that we have been given-of the gift of time, of the gift of talents, and of the gift of money and material goods.

## Prayer for Giving

#1022 <sup>VT</sup>

Leader: Holy One, as you are faithful to us, may we be faithful to you:

**People:** faithful with our time and energy, faithful with our possessions and wealth.

Leader: Receive these gifts by your grace.

**People:** Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to make real your reign of love, justice, and peace in our world. Amen.

## Special Music

*The Angelus I*

arr. Marta Lynn Thompson

# LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

## Scripture Lesson

Matthew 7:24-29 CEB

### Two foundations

<sup>24</sup> "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew

and beat against that house. It didn't fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed."

### **Crowd's response**

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching <sup>29</sup> because he was teaching them like someone with authority and not like their legal experts.

## **Sermon**

"The Builder"

# **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

## **\* Song**

*My Hope is Built*

#621 <sup>VT</sup>

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain:*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

- 2 In ev'ry rough and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the vale.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*
- 3 Not earth, nor hell, my soul can move;  
I rest upon unchanging love.  
I trust his righteous character,  
his counsel, promise, and his pow'r. *Refrain*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Now Unto Him*

David Morris

*Now Unto Him* by David Morris

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*\* 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 ..... Don Ziegler  
Children's Time ..... Sarah Hartman  
Stewardship Moment ..... Carol Goss  
Special Music ..... **Our Handbell Choir**  
Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Kevin Beers, Carol Goss, Ken Heatwole,  
Alyce Newman, Gail Rhodes, Sarah Hartman <sup>Director</sup>  
Flautist ..... Sarah Hartman  
Guitarist ..... David Whitten  
Dir. of Media & Tech ..... Kevin Beers