



**The
Potter's
Hands**



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239
804-288-6439 (phone) 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

November 17, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Handbell Prelude

A Hymn of Thanks

Beverly Simpson & Johann A. P. Schulz

A Little Quickie

Beverly Simpson

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship (Leader/People)

God told Jeremiah to check out the potter's shop. That's where he'd hear God's message.

Let's head to the potter's shop, too. We want to hear what God has to say.

The potter's got total control over the clay. He can shape it any way he wants.

We're like clay in God's hands. He can mold us into anything he dreams up.

Let's come before God with open hearts and minds, ready to be shaped by his word.

We're here to worship you, God, and let you work on us.

* Opening Prayer

God, you're the potter, and we're the clay. You can shape and mold us into anything you like. We're here today, to be molded by your love. We know we can be stubborn and hard-headed.

We cling to our own ways and don't always listen to you.

Forgive us, God, for being so prideful and disobedient. We want to be changed by your Spirit, to be more like Jesus. Help us to give our lives completely to you and trust in your perfect plan.

As we gather to worship you today, let your word speak to our

hearts and minds. Fill us with your Spirit and give us the power to live like true followers of Christ. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen

* **Opening Song** *This is God's Wondrous World* #180 ^{VT}

- 1- This is God's wondrous world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, the wonders God has wrought.
- 2- This is God's wondrous world; the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the dark of night, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world; a wand'rer I may roam.
Whate'er my lot, it matters not, my heart is still at home.
- 3- This is God's wondrous world; oh, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world; the battle is not done.
Jesus who died shall be glorified, and earth and heav'n be one.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Song *Blessed Assurance* #435 ^{VT}

- 1- Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.
 This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.*
- 2- Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

- 3- Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Pastoral Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

As we offer our gifts today, let's remember that we are like clay in the Potter's hands. Just as the potter molds and shapes the clay, God molds and shapes us. Our offerings, like the clay, are raw materials that God can use to build His kingdom. Let's give generously, trusting that God will use our gifts to accomplish His divine purposes.

Special Music

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Arr. Ron Ferlito

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-12 CEB

18 Jeremiah received the Lord's word: ²Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. ³So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. ⁴But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. ⁵Then the Lord's word came to me: ⁶House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! ⁷At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; ⁸but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. ⁹At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; ¹⁰but

if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. ¹¹ Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions. ¹² But they said, "What's the use! We will follow our own plans and act according to our own willful, evil hearts."

* **Song**

Change My Heart, O God

#1149 ^{HWBS}

Change My Heart, O God by Eddie Espinosa

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Chorus:

*Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like You.*

Verse:

You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Chorus

Sermon

"The Potter's Hands"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Song**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#812 ^{VT}

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ASH GROVE) by Omer Westendorf

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- 1- Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
- 2- The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace did invite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your reign and to answer your call.
- 3- With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing the children of each tribe and race.

- 4- With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

*** Benediction**

Postlude

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Martin/Gabriel

** Please stand as able and led*



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

Ministers..... **All Members**
Pastor..... David Whitten
Minister of Music Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader Don Ziegler
Time with Our Children Sarah Hartman
Handbell Choir..... Sarah Hartman ^(Director)
Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Carol Goss, Gail Rhodes, Kevin Beers, Sandy Faw, Vanessa Morton
Special Music..... Barbara Beers & Sarah Hartman
Guitarist David Whitten
Director of Media & Technology..... Kevin Beers