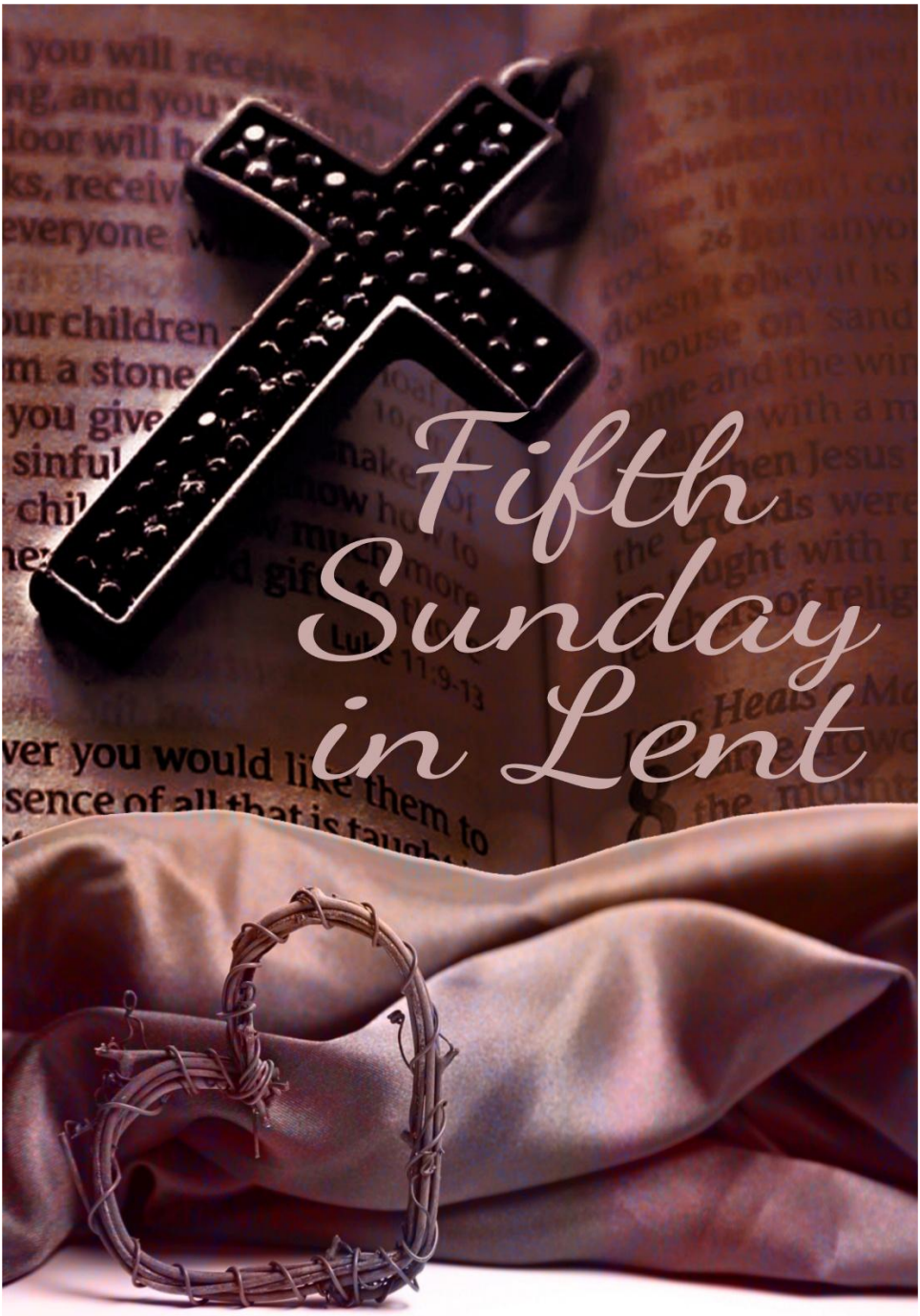

West Richmond Church of the Brethren
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Welcome

Prelude *Psalm 5* arr. David Nevue

Listen to my Words, Lord, consider my lament.
Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.
In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay me requests before you and wait expectantly.

Call to Worship (One/Many) Ruth Duck

We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

We come seeking the awareness of God's presence as we travel on.

We come seeking light for our darkness, strength in our weakness.

Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your love. Make your presence known in this time together.

Opening Prayer

God of the faithful in every time, today you have called us into this place to remember that we are your Church. You have given us the gifts we need for your service. Give us the courage to do our part: to be light in the darkness, to be love in a world sowing fear, to be kind when kindness is ridiculed, and to be, in all things and in all days, your hands of love and the face of your compassion. Amen.

Opening Song *Here in This Place* #10 VT

1: Here in this place, the new light is streaming;
now are the shadows vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;

gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2: We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song. SEP

3: Here we will take the wine of compassion;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here we become the people you fashion:
children of God, to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine ever flowing,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and guide us in growing
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4: Not just in buildings, dim and confining;
not in some heaven, lightyears away:
here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the dawning and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Children's Time

Old Testament Scripture — Psalm 84

My Sun and My Shield — Ted Sandquist

A Reading — Salvation — Frederick Buechner

Congregational Prayer (in unison) — Ann Weems

O God, from whose eyes the measure of our faith is not hidden, wrench from us all that separates us from your Spirit.

O God, who calls each of us by name to be the church, give us love enough to make a difference, give us vision enough to follow, give us endurance enough to hold steadfast in the face of the unholy.

O God, who claims us a disciple, bless us now and touch us with your holiness that we might have commitment enough to be good news to the poor.

O God of the bruised, we pray for healing. Comfort those who cry in dark corners: the lonely, the strangers, the weary, the fearful, the disappointed, the anxious, the depressed, the ostracized, the vilified, the grieving and those in pain.

O God who wept over Jerusalem, open our eyes to those around us who scream in silence the depth of their despair.

O God of compassion, heal our hard hearts to tenderness.

O God of the oppressed, fire us with justice that we might proclaim liberty to the captives.

O God of the hungry, we pray for those who have no bread. Remove, O God, the shackles of our indifference and arrogance, so that we might share our bread.

O God of the homeless, we pray for those who have no land. We pray that you will open the doors of our hearts and let your wandering people in.

O God of the captives, have mercy on those who must live out their lives enslaved to someone else because of race or politics or economics or nationality. Loose our bonds that we might risk our own securities on their behalf.

O God of peace, give peace to our hearts and to our nation, and to the world.

O Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Special Music *Pacem Blessing* arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Thoughts on Giving

Blessed are you who have worked hard to keep your heart soft,
you who live with courage, fixing what is within your reach,
praying about what is not, and loving, still.

Song *Healer of Our Every Ill* #644 VT

1: You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

Refrain: Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

2: In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

3: You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

New Testament Scripture Luke 18:35-19:10

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

35 As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the
roadside begging. 36 And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired
what this meant. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is
passing by." 38 And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have
mercy on me!" 39 And those who were in front rebuked him,
telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of
David, have mercy on me!" 40 And Jesus stopped and
commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came
near, he asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?"
He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." 42 And Jesus said to

him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well."
43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him,
glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave
praise to God.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold,
there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax
collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus
was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he
was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into
a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.
5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to
him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at
your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and
received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all
grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a
sinner." 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold,
Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have
defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And
Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house,
since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came
to seek and to save the lost."

Sermon "Saved from What"

Song *God, Whose Giving* #745 VT

1: God, whose giving knows no ending
from your rich and endless store—
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door—
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise.
Thankful songs shall rise forever,
gracious Donor of our days.

2: Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

3: Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred—
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Benediction

Postlude

A Closing Prayer — Don Besig

** 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
Guest Speaker ..... Terrie Glass
Minister of Music ..... Vanessa Morton
Worship Assistant ..... Sarah Hartman
Worship Leader ..... Susan Robertson
Dir. of Media & Tech ..... Kevin Beers
Flautist ..... Sarah Hartman
Bassist ..... Barbara Hodgdon
Pianist ..... Ken Heatwole
Special Music ..... Our Choir