

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

Long Green and Kanés Rds., near Glen Arm, MD

May 1, 2016

Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10 am

Large print hymnals are available see an usher

This room is equipped with a sound loop for the hearing impaired

Ascension of Our Lord

*“Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.”*
(Psalm 47:1-2)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Fairest Lord Jesus” 117

Announcements

Prelude “Morning Hymn” Young

*Call to Worship Psalm 47

*Hymn “Rejoice, the Lord is king!” 288

*Opening Prayer

*Speaking the Word to one another Ephesians 1:15-23

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video “The Long Journey Home”
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise
(please be brief, and aware of God’s listening presence)

Hymn “Bless’d be the tie that binds” 421

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Acts 1:1-11

Message *“Out of sight, but not gone”*

*Hymn “I know not why God’s wondrous” 338

*Benediction

*Postlude “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” Kirkpatrick

* Rise in body or in spirit
* * * * *

Call to Worship

(motion for everyone to remain seated)

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.*
- ² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.*
- ³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.*
- ⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.*

(motion for everyone to rise)

- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.*
- ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.*
- ⁸ God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.*
- ⁹ The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.*

Lift up your voice and “Rejoice, the Lord is king!” - #288

Opening Prayer

We lift up our hearts to you, O Ruler of all creation.
With all that is within us:
Heart, soul, mind, strength,
We bless your name, O Lord God of hosts.
We lift up our voice and rejoice.
For you are the source of life,
the author behind every good word,
true authority above every earthly power.
We seek you,
and discover in you our best and truest self.
We desire to be real and authentic,
and this develops as we ground our lives in you.
Forgive the lies we tell ourselves
to justify actions that are less than true and right.
Help us to move beyond our sin
and live as children of the light of Christ.
Bless this time together,
We pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

Speaking the Word to one another

Ephesians 1:15-23

Please remain standing and turn to face the center aisle. We will speak these old, old words of the apostle Paul to one another. Yes, they were originally written to the church in Ephesus, but they still speak to us. And it is good to put them in our own voice, and say them to each other. I will speak a line and you will repeat it, taking turns from one side of the aisle to the other, so only half of you will speak each line. However, establish eye contact with at least one person on the other side. Speak to them, personally, as if from your heart. May these words be your words, not just Paul's. I will begin with you on my left (L). Repeat after me to your brothers and sisters in Christ:

L - I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus.

R - I have heard about your love for all of God's people.

L - So I never stop being grateful for you.

R - Yes, I never stop being thankful for you.

L - I mention you in my prayers.

R - I ask God to give you his Spirit.

L - This Spirit will make you wise.

R - It will help you to know God.

L - My prayer is that light will flood your hearts.

R - May you know the hope given to you when God chose you.

L - May you discover the glorious blessings that will be yours,

R - The blessings we share with all of God's people.

L - May you to know the great and mighty power God has for us followers.

R - With this wonderful power God raised Christ from death.

L - With this power Jesus sits by God's side in heaven.

R - There, Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers.

L - He rules over all the world.

R - He will rule in the future as well.

L - God has put all things under the power of Christ.

R - For the good of the church he has made him head of everything.

L - The church is Christ's body.

R - We are filled with him who completely fills everything.

Please be seated.

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

“I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people. So I never stop being grateful for you, as I mention you in my prayers” (Ephesians 1:15-16). Gratitude lies at the heart of who we are as God’s people. We respond to what we hear & see of what God is doing around us in the lives of people we know personally, as well as in the lives of persons we only know from a distance ... we respond with gratitude. We express our thanks through prayer. We also give thanks with money, which helps the church live out its mission.

For the past two years we have heard about the struggle faced by our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. Week after week we have prayed for them. Many of us have given toward their welfare, to help them rebuild after homes and churches were destroyed and multitudes were forced to flee. We have heard about how, in the face of terrorism, the church in Nigeria is filled with joy, and is creatively working toward recovery through the power of God, who raised Jesus from the dead. We recently received a video from our denomination which visually tells this story. As we gratefully return our tithes and offerings just now, let’s watch it ... and be blessed.

Remember, *“God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything. The church is Christ’s body and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything”* (Ephesians

1:22-23)....

Ushers?

Offertory Video - “The Long Journey Home”

<https://vimeo.com/162832738> - or short version <https://vimeo.com/162832738>

Benediction

Please remain standing and turn to face the center aisle. Like Brethren used to in days not that long ago, let’s sing to each other the first verse of that old song by John Fawcett, “Bless’d be the tie that binds,” without hymnal or organ.

Bless’d be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Go and be salt and light -

Bound together and finely woven in the Spirit,
Empowered to continue the work of Jesus.

Amen