

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 24, 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

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”
(Luke 11:9-10)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Lord, with devotion we pray” 79

Announcements

Prelude “Preludium” Christopher
(“Savior, teach me day by day”)

*Call to Worship Psalm 138 (*adapted*)

*Hymn “Praise, I will praise you, Lord” 76

*Opening Prayer Meghan Knight

Scripture Colossians 2:6-15 from *The Message*

Telling the Story of Helping Others

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Help Us to Help Each Other, Lord” Bartholemon
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture Genesis 18:20-33

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

Hymn “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” 324

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Luke 11:1-13

Message “*Perseverance in Prayer*”

*Hymn “God of grace and God of glory” 366

*Benediction

*Postlude “Postludium” Armstrong

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 138 *(adapted)*

- 1 - I give you thanks, O Lord, with all that I am.
- 2 - Before everything else that would claim to be “god” of my life, I sing your praise.
- 1 - I humble myself in this simple, yet holy place and give thanks to you, for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.
- 2 - I am grateful for who you are and for everything you have said and continue to say.
- 1 - When I ask, seek, and knock - you answer. You have strengthened me within.
- 2 - All those who rule on this earth will eventually praise you, O Lord, for you speak even if they do not listen.
- 1 - They shall one day sing of your ways, O Lord...
Glory! Hallelujah!
- 2 - You are way above us, God. Even so, you pay attention to those who are down and out.
- 1 - You also see those who are puffed up with their own importance.
- 2 - Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you protect me from those who seek to hurt me.
- 1 - Your hand is at work in my life, providing a way through difficulty.
- 2 - You will fulfill your purpose for my life.
- 1 - Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
- 2 - So, keep active in my life.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your word. Thank you for a love so powerful that it can move mountains. Your hand is in everything we do. Each step we take, you are there. We give thanks to you for your never ending love and faithfulness. Meet us here in this place of worship. We are expecting you. Let us feel your presence as we sing praises to you and glorify your name. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

by Meghan Knight, worship leader

Colossians 2:6-15

From the Psalms of the Old Testament we turn to the letters of the New Testament. Listen now to the apostle Paul, as he writes to the church in Collosae (*Ko-lah-say*). We will read from The Message, a paraphrase. May these ancient words speak to us. Listen.

- 1 - My counsel for you is simple and straightforward:
- 2 - Just go ahead with what you've been given.
- 1 - You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him.
- 2 - You're deeply rooted in him.
- 1 - You're well constructed upon him.
- 2 - You know your way around the faith
- 1 - Now do what you've been taught.
- 2 - School's out; quit studying the subject & start living it!
- 1 - And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.
- 2 - Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk.
- 1 - They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything.
- 2 - They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings.
- 1 - But that's not the way of Christ.
- 2 - Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly.
- 1 - You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him.

- 2 - When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too.
- 1 - His power extends over everything.
- 2 - Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve.
- 1 - It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws.
- 2 - No, you're already in -- insiders --
- 1 - not through some secretive initiation rite
- 2 - but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you,
- 1 - destroying the power of sin.
- 2 - If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism.
- 1 - Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection,
- 2 - God raising you from the dead as he did Christ.
- 1 - When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life,
- 2 - you were incapable of responding to God.
- 1 - God brought you alive—right along with Christ!
- 2 - Think of it! All sins forgiven,
- 1 - the slate wiped clean,
- 2 - that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross.
- 1 - He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross
- 2 - and marched them naked through the streets.

Telling the Story of Helping Others

(a disaster relief work camp, as shared by Meghan Knight)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

“Serve one another in love.” Galatians chapter five, verse thirteen. God’s word teaches us to give to each other with love. One of my favorite things about work camp was that none of us had a second thought when it came to working on these homes in Detroit. We knew we had a job to be done and we did it. That is God’s love in us. We served these homeowners with love. God calls us to help each other through love. Not just at a work camp, but also at home, at work and many more places. As you return your offering, do not think of it as just putting money in a plate. Think of it as helping our church with God’s love. Ushers, please come forward.

by Meghan Knight, worship leader

Genesis 18:20–33

(for 3 readers)

- 1 - Last Sunday, we remembered how 3 “visitors” stopped by the tent of Abraham and Sarah as they camped under the “*Oaks of Mamre*.”
- 2 - Abraham welcomed these strangers with open arms, responding with great hospitality.
- 3 - Those visitors turned out to be the Lord and two angels.
- 2 - If we compare chapters 18 and 19 of Genesis, we find the opposite of hospitality in the nearby city of Sodom.
- 1 - When the angels visited, they were met with hostility and the threat of violence.
- 2 - According to the prophet Ezekiel, the sister cities of Sodom and Gomorrah
- 3 - “*had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty, and did abominable things before me; therefore I removed them when I saw it.*” (16:49-50).
- 2 - That was their sin.
- 1 - However, before their destruction, Abraham tried to intercede with the Lord for the people of those towns.
- 2 - Standing before this visitor, now seen as more than just a stranger, Abraham sought to change God’s mind. Listen.

-----*(pause)*-----

1 - Then the Lord said,
3 - “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”
1 - So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said,
2 - “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”
1 - And the Lord said,
3 - “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.”
1 - Abraham answered,
2 - “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”
1 - And the Lord said,
3 - “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”
1 - Again Abraham spoke to him,
2 - “Suppose forty are found there.”
1 - The Lord answered,

3 - “For the sake of forty I will not do it.”
1 - Then he said,
2 - “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.”
1 - He answered,
3 - “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”
1 - He said,
2 - “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.”
1 - He answered,
3 - “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”
1 - Then he said,
2 - “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.”
1 - He answered,
3 - “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”
1 - And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

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Luke 11:1-13

(for 3 readers)

- 1 - (Jesus) *was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,*
- 2 - *“Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”*
- 1 - *He said to them,*
- 3 - *“When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”*
- 1 - *And he said to them,*
- 3 - *“Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight*
- 2 - *(knock hard on wood, then wait, knock hard again, wait, knock hard a third time, then...)*
- 1 - *(sounding annoyed and sleepy): “What?”*
- 3 - *and say to him,*
- 2 - *‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’*
- 3 - *And he answers from within,*
- 1 - *(sounding annoyed and sleepy): ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’*

- 3 - *I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.*

(pause)

- 3 - *“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you;*
- 1 - *search, and you will find;*
- 2 - *knock, and the door will be opened for you.*
- 3 - *For everyone who asks receives,*
- 1 - *and everyone who searches finds,*
- 2 - *and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*
- 3 - *Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?*
- 1 - *Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?*
- 3 - *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,*
- 2 - *how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

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Benediction

Yes, be persistent when it comes to prayer,
as well as other to aspects of living out your faith.

However, remember – as you go –
that your determination is infinitesimal,
compared to
the tenacious grace and indefatigable glory,
the steadfast love and stubborn mercy,
the enduring providence and the dogged protection,
the tireless listening and purposeful action
of the Lord, our God.

Amen?