

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 31, 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 if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.” (Colossians 3:1-2 from *The Message*)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Take, O take me as I am” *(insert)*

Announcements

Prelude “Prelude from Sonatina in F” Clemente

*Beginning with a Psalm (107:1-9) *(see insert)*

*Hymn “Great is thy faithfulness” 327

*Opening Prayer *(in Chinese and English)*

Listening to the apostle Paul Colossians 3:1-11
(from The Message)

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

Hymn *(vs. 2-3)* “Take my life” 389

Pastoral Prayer

A Story from Jesus Luke 12:13-21

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Moderato” Young
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Hymn *(vs. 4-5)* “Take my life” 389

Dedication Prayer

Being stretched by a Psalm (107:1-9) Robyn Boettner

Hymn “In Christ there is no East or West” 306

A China Story Ruoxia Li and Eric Miller

*Hymn *(vs. 1,6)* “Take my life” 389

*Benediction

*Postlude “Allegro” Franck

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

Beginning with a Psalm

Please rise in body or spirit and join in reading the first six verses of Psalm 107 found on your bulletin insert.

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: for his steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Left: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

Right: hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Left: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

Right: he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

One: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

All: for his wonderful works to humankind.

One: For he satisfies the thirsty,

All: and the hungry he fills with good things.

Psalm 107:1-9 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education
of the National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Remain standing, and let us sing,
“Great is thy faithfulness,” #327 in our hymnal.

Opening Prayer

written and led by Ruoxia Li
(in Chinese and English)

亲爱的主，你欢迎、拥抱每个人来到你的身边，
无论我们来自哪个国家哪种文化，你是如此了解我们，
以你的圣灵洁净我们，打开我们的心灵来接受你完美的爱。
奉主耶稣基督的名，阿门。

Dear Lord, you welcome all and know us
completely no matter which country and which culture we
are from, cleanse us by your spirit and open us to your
perfect steadfast love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Listening to the apostle Paul
Colossians 3:1-11

1 - So if you're serious about living this new resurrection which Christ presides.

2 - Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you.

1 - Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is.

2 - See things from his perspective.

1 - Your old life is dead.

2 - Your new life, which is your real life—

1 - even though invisible to spectators—

2 - is with Christ in God. He is your life.

1 - When Christ

2 - (your real life, remember)

1 - shows up again on this earth,

2 - you'll show up, too—

1 - the real you, the glorious you.

2 - Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

1 - And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death:

2 - sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust,

1 - doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy.

2 - That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God.

1 - It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger.

2 - It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better.

1 - But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good:

2 - bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

1 - Don't lie to one another.

2 - You're done with that old life.

1 - It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire.

2 - Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe.

1 - Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it.

2 - All the old fashions are now obsolete.

1 - Words like "Jewish and non-Jewish,"

2 - "religious and irreligious,"

1 - "insider and outsider,"

2 - "uncivilized and uncouth,"

1 - "slave and free,"

2 - mean nothing.

1 - From now on everyone is defined by Christ,

2 - everyone is included in Christ.

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12:13-21 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education
of the National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved

- 1 - Someone in the crowd said to him,
2 - *“Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.”*
- 1 - But he said to him,
3 - **“Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?”**
- 1 - And he said to them,
3 - **“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”**
- 1 - Then he told them a parable:
3 - **“The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself,**
2 - *‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’*
- 3 - **Then he said,**
2 - *‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’*
- 3 - **But God said to him,**
1 - *‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’*
- 3 - **So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”**

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

None of us have been building too many barns to store all our “stuff,” have we? ... Well, maybe there is an attic in need of attention, or a spare room overflowing, or a storage unit somewhere for everything we couldn’t fit in our home. We can say to ourselves, *“relax, eat, drink, be merry,”* but all that “stuff” doesn’t seem to let us. And when it comes time to divide everything up for our children’s inheritance, our children often wish we had emptied the attic or the spare room, or the storage unit ourselves. Furthermore, families can easily disintegrate over the distribution of what we leave behind, fighting instead of grieving rightly. As Jesus said, our “life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

Ponder this as you return your offering just now.

Ushers?

*then Offertory
followed by verses 4-5 of
“Take my life” #389*

Dedication Prayer

Gracious God, we have become anesthetized to the amount of greed surrounding our everyday lives. Our identities often seem defined by our possessions and lifestyle. Yet, we are stripped bare of our worldly possessions and seen equally in your holy sight. Release those temporal bonds preventing us from living and giving in ways that honor your name. We prayerfully dedicate these gifts to the work of your eternal home, a place of faith where our souls will truly rest. Amen.

Copyright © 2016 David S. Bell.
Reprinted with permission from www.DavidSBell.org.

Benediction

Go now as those raised with Christ,
wondering at God's great love
and telling the story of your salvation.
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed
and set your minds on the ways of heaven.

And may God reach out to you and nourish you;
May Christ Jesus renew you in the image of your creator;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you
with cords of kindness and love.

©2001 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net

Being stretched by a Psalm

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

³those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.^(a)

⁴Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.

⁵They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.

⁶Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.

⁸Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

⁹for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Comment [RB1]: Stand up and raise arms above head

Comment [RB2]: Look at your neighbors as though hearing/telling a story (aka, move head to the right and then to the left)

Comment [RB3]: Bend over

Comment [RB4]: Bend left

Comment [RB5]: Bend right

Comment [RB6]: Reach up

Comment [RB7]: Big arm circle to neutral

Comment [RB8]: March slowly, quietly in place

Comment [RB9]: Make gestures to show hunger, thirst, put hand to forehead as though you will faint and slowly sit down

Comment [RB10]: sitting

Comment [RB11]: stand up! Excited

Comment [RB12]: marching again

Comment [RB13]: arms up

Comment [RB14]: circle arms like a heart above head down to belly

Comment [RB15]: look left and right, excited (same as above)

Comment [RB16]: reach out straight and then open arms, then bring them up above head. End with a big breath arms above head, after you are done reading inhale big breath with arms above head and exhale big breath bring arms down and sitting