

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

September 25, 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

*“Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and  
send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water  
and cool my tongue...”*                      (Luke 16:24)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “I owe the Lord...”                      651

Announcements

Prelude

\*Call to Worship    (back of bulletin)

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

\*Opening Prayer    Edna Mueller

Scripture                      1 Timothy 6:6-19                      (from *The Message*)

when directed, respond: **“I belong to the Lord”**

Song                      “Give thanks”                      (insert)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory    (Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture                      Psalm 146                      (NIV)

when directed, speak: **“The Lord”**

Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise

(please be brief, and aware of God’s listening presence)

Hymn                      “God of our life”                      486

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture                      Luke 16:19-31                      (*Cotton Patch* version)

Message                      “*Barometer of the soul*”

\*Hymn                      “Brothers and sisters of mine”                      142

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\* Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-09-25.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-09-25.mp3)

## Call to Worship

Rise is body or spirit,  
and join in the Call to Worship  
found on the back of your bulletin.

*(pause until all are ready)*

One: Lord, we long to praise you,

***All: but sometimes we are burdened by the weight of  
the world and our lives in it***

One: Lord, we long to trust you,

***All: but sometimes it is easier to trust the loud leaders  
in our world with their temporary assurance.***

One: Lord, you are our help, the maker of heaven and  
earth. You are faithful to the end.

***All: You are a God of justice and kindness, compassion  
and strength. We long for you to set us free,  
to watch over us, and to uphold us.***

One: The Lord is faithful. The Lord sets the prisoner free.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.  
The Lord reigns for all generations.

***All: We will praise the Lord as long as we live;  
our souls will sing praises to our God.***

Remain standing, and let us sing  
“Praise, I will praise you, Lord”  
#76 in your Hymnal.

## Opening Prayer

Lord God, we know that you are always with us,  
uplifting us and holding us, and we praise you. We ask  
that you reveal yourself to us, that our spirits would soar  
in your presence. Open our hearts to beat with your  
compassion, and open our minds to know you in new and  
exciting ways. Grant us a portion of your strength, so that  
we may lift one another up in your name. Amen.

Call and Prayer by Brandy Liepelt  
ordained minister Church of the Brethren  
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# 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*(Pete:)*

For our reading from the first letter of the apostle Paul to his younger co-worker, Timothy, you are encouraged to participate. Whenever we point to you, please respond with:

**“I belong to the Lord”**

Let’s practice that once. *(do so)* In this way, allow these words to speak to you, and not just Timothy. ...Listen...

*(Edna:)*

A devout life does bring wealth, but (this wealth) is the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that’s enough.

**Congregation: “I belong to the Lord”**

*(Pete:)*

But if it’s only money these leaders are after, they’ll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

**Congregation: “I belong to the Lord”**

*(Edna:)*

But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.

**Congregation: “I belong to the Lord”**

*(Pete:)*

I’m charging you before the life-giving God and before Christ, who took his stand before Pontius Pilate and didn’t give an inch: Keep this command to the letter, and don’t slack off. Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way. He’ll show up right on time, his arrival guaranteed by the Blessed and Undisputed Ruler, High King, High God. He’s the only one death can’t touch, his light so bright no one can get close. He’s never been seen by human eyes—human eyes can’t take him in! Honor to him, and eternal rule! Oh, yes.

**Congregation: “I belong to the Lord”**

*(Edna:)*

Tell those rich in this world’s wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

**Congregation: “I belong to the Lord”**

# Give thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give  
thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give  
Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am  
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
us. Give thanks!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second and third staves have first and second endings marked with '1.' and '2.' respectively. The fourth and fifth staves also have first endings marked with '1.'.

by Henry Smith  
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# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Pray with me.

God, our helper, every good gift comes from your open hand. You sent your Son Jesus to become human, understanding our temptations and weaknesses. In our life of discipleship, help us to stand resolute in our commitment to follow Christ rather than the lures of our culture. Send your spirit to bring peace and contentment to our hearts. Let our congregation become a haven of those rich in good works and eager to share your message of hope. In gratitude, we dedicate our offerings through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Ushers?

by Rev. Rosanna Anderson  
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Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church  
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<http://www.umdiscipleship.org/resources/offertory-prayers-and-invitation-for-september-2016>

# Psalm 146

(Pete:)

Like our previous scripture reading, you are invited to join in Psalm 146. Every time it mentions “**the Lord,**” you will speak those two words. We will again point to you, which is your cue to say “**the Lord.**” Shall we practice? (point)

**“The Lord.”**

Pay attention, for these two words are mentioned eleven times as part of a sentence. As you do so, let this psalm flow through you, like a stream flows to the sea. Be ready. ...Listen...

(Edna:)

Praise

**Congregation: “the Lord.”**

Praise

**Congregation: “the Lord,”**

my soul. I will praise

**Congregation: “the Lord”**

all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

(Pete:)

Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in

**Congregation: “the Lord”**

their God.

(Edna:)

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

(Pete:)

**Congregation: “The Lord”**  
sets prisoners free,

**Congregation: “the Lord”**  
gives sight to the blind,

**Congregation: “the Lord”**  
lifts up those who are bowed down,

**Congregation: “the Lord”**  
loves the righteous.

(Edna:)

**Congregation: “The Lord.”**  
watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

(Pete:)

**Congregation: “The Lord”**  
reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise

**Congregation: “the Lord.”**

## Luke 16:19-31

Last week, we heard a story Jesus told about a landowner, an inept manager, and the folks who worked the land. According to Luke's gospel, Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples, in the first half of the sixteenth chapter. In the second half of this chapter, Jesus turned his attention to "*the Pharisees*," the local Jewish teachers/preachers who were listening in and ridiculing him. The text makes a point of saying that they were "*lovers of money*" who "*justify (themselves) in the sight of others, but God knows (their) hearts*" (16:14-15). Today's story, according to Luke, was addressed to them.

Now, please understand that these stories Jesus told came out of the dirt of Galilee 2,000 years ago. By that I mean, Jesus spoke out of the experience of those first century Jewish folks, telling tales that made sense to them. I will be reading this parable from a paraphrase called the "Cotton Patch" version. The words came out of the red soil of south Georgia, where Clarence Jordon started a farm in the 1950's in which white folks and black folks worked side by side as a Christian community called *Koinonia*. Clarence was a Bible scholar, a farmer, and a pastor. For his sermons, every week he'd translate from the Greek a passage of scripture, which he wrote as if it took place in the American south of the mid-twentieth century, not in Palestine long ago. All of these paraphrases were collected to make the "Cotton Patch" version. The following is from this version. ... Luke 16:19-31 ... Listen.

"Once there was a rich man, and he put on his tux and stiff shirt, and staged a big affair every day. And there was laid at his gate a poor guy by the name of Lazarus, full of sores, and so hungry he wanted to fill up on the rich man's table scraps. On top of this, the dogs came and licked his sores.

"It so happened that the poor fellow died, and the angels seated him at the table with Abraham. The rich man died, too, and was buried. And in the hereafter, the rich man, in great agony, looked up and saw from afar Abraham, and Lazarus sitting beside him at the table. So he shouted to him, 'Mr. Abraham, please take pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in some water and rub it over my tongue, because I'm scorching in this heat.'

"Abraham replied, 'Boy, you remember that while you were alive you got the good things (the good jobs, schools, streets, houses, etc.), while at the same time Lazarus got the leftovers. But now, here he's got it made, and you're scorching. And on top of all this, somebody has dug a yawning chasm between us and you, so that people trying to get through from here to you can't make it, neither can they get through from there to us.'

"The rich man said, "Well, then, Mr. Abraham, will you please send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers; let him thoroughly warn them so they won't come to this hellish condition.'

“Then Abraham said, ‘They’ve got the Bible and the preachers; let them listen to them.’

“But he said, ‘No, they won’t do that, Mr. Abraham. But if somebody will go to them from the dead, they’ll change their ways!’

“He replied, “Well, if they won’t listen to the Bible and the preachers, they won’t be persuaded even if someone does get up from the dead.””

## Benediction

Go now and take hold of the life that really is life.  
Shun the eagerness for money  
but be rich in good works.  
Pursue righteousness, godliness,  
faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

And may God be your refuge and fortress;  
May Christ Jesus free you from all that ensnares you;  
And may the Holy Spirit provide you with everything  
.....for godliness and contentment.

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from the *Cotton Patch* Gospel, by Clarence Jordan  
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