

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

October 9, 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

*“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Change my heart, O God” (insert)

Announcements

Prelude                      “Devotion”                      Schreiner

Call to Worship                      Psalm 19:1-6

\*Hymn                      “From all that dwell below the skies”                      49

\*Opening Prayer (*ends with Lord’s Prayer*)

Scripture                      Psalm 19:7-14

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

Prayer Matters!                      Re-dedicating our Prayer Chain (733)

Hymn                      “Breathe on me, breath of God”                      356

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture                      2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory                      “Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord”                      Mendelssohn  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture                      Jeremiah 31:27-34

Message                      *“Itching ears or new hearts”*

\*Hymn                      “Great is thy Faithfulness”                      327

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      “St. Anne”                      Wm. Croft

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

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-10-09.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-10-09.mp3)

# Call to Worship

Psalm 19:1-6

- 1 - *The heavens are telling the glory of God...*
- 2 - Can you see? Are you listening?
- 1 - *and the firmament...*
- 2 - The sky, from one horizon to the other.
- 1 - *the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*
- 2 - Like a quilt shows the craft of those who pieced and sewed it together.
- 1 - *Day to day pours forth speech,*
- 2 - In the language of nature – are you paying attention?
- 1 - *and night to night declares knowledge.*
- 2 - When the light goes out, wisdom remains.
- 1 - *There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice*  
(mouthed, not spoken:) *is not heard;*
- 2 - (loudly:) **THEY AREN'T HEARD!**
- 1 - *yet their voice goes out through all the earth,*
- 2 - Like the wind blowing across the land.
- 1 - *and their words to the end of the world.*
- 2 - They speak for all to hear! Everywhere!
- 1 - *In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,*
- 2 - A dwelling place for the light.

- 1 - *which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,*
- 2 - Happiness in the morning, a ceremony of delight.
- 1 - *and like a strong man runs its course with joy.*
- 2 - Can you feel the burn of heavenly exercise?
- 1 - *Its rising is from the end of the heavens,*
- 2 - Farther than the eye can see!
- 1 - *and its circuit to the end of them;*
- 2 - traveling from horizon to horizon, and beyond.
- 1 - *and nothing is hid from its heat.*
- 2 - Can you feel the warmth of what God has created?  
(pause to indicate scripture reading is finished)
- 1 - Rise, now, in body or spirit and turn to #49 in your hymnal.
- 2 - “From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise!”

*scripture text here and later for Psalm 19:7-14*  
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.

## Opening Prayer

Holy God:

with the precious jewel of holy scripture,  
you share with us the treasure of your heart.

Engrave your covenant -

your hopes,

your dreams,

your vision,

your peace - upon our hearts,

that they might beat as one with yours.

Holy Word:

ever clear, you keep us

from wandering down the wrong paths;

ever longed for, you make us persistent

in bringing justice to the lost and to the least;

ever practical, you show us how

not to misplace our hearts.

Holy Wisdom:

as you breathe the Word into our hearts,

tutor us in faithfulness

so we are trained in using the tools of justice and hope;

so we are equipped to share the good news with all;

so we become skilled in compassion and grace.

God in Community, Holy in One,

we lift our hearts to you

as we pray as Jesus teaches us, saying,

*Our Father . . .*

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,  
currently interim Pastor at  
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.  
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

## Psalms 19:7-14

Listen to the rest of Psalm 19.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and  
the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

# Prayer Matters!

Re-dedicating our Prayer Chain

Many of you have responded to an awesome calling of God, some to receive requests for prayer through phone calls, others by way of email. As brother James wrote, “*the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective*” (James 5:16b). Your ministry undergirds much of what we do as a church. As one minister among many here - set aside to the specific task of being your pastor, I count on your ministry of prayer. When, for instance, I and some deacons or others are asked to anoint someone, and we are able to send this through the chain, you widen the circle of God’s care through us, you amplify both our concern to God and God’s loving-kindness to us, even after the fact. Your prayer matters!

I challenge you to be faithful in this calling, to carry each request to God. I admonish you not to use this chain as a form of gossip, passing on to others news entrusted into your hands only. Remember these persons in your heart throughout the day. If need be, anoint them with your own tears. Do not grow disheartened by discouraging news in follow-up, but believe that “*all things (somehow, in some way that we may not comprehend) work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose*” (Romans 8:28).

In consecrating ourselves to this ministry of prayer, I invite you to turn in your hymnal to #733, a familiar prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. Shall we join our hearts and our voices in unison?

Lord,  
make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

AMEN

Hymnal #733  
attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, 13th c.  
revised and reused from Oct. 1, 2000

followed by:  
“Breathe on me, breath of God”  
Hymnal #356

## 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

*In worship the last several Sundays, we have been listening in on the mentoring relationship between the apostle Paul & his young friend, Timothy. We are nearing the end of the wisdom shared with Timothy by Paul. May we find it inspiring for our walk of faith... Listen.*

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>5:1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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.

## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

*“...be persistent whether the time is favorable  
or unfavorable...”*

Persistence does not just apply to proclaiming God’s message. Everything we are about as disciples of Jesus involves diligence, determination, perseverance, and resolve. If we aren’t willing to follow the Lord when the going gets rough, why bother? Of course, we can all-too-easily mistake persistence for just plain stubbornness. We can be so unyielding in what we think is right, that we don’t allow room for God (or anyone else, for that matter) to get a word in edgewise. For scripture to *inspire* us, we need to be open to it *in-spiring* us. Can we be inspired if we stubbornly close the door to our minds and hearts?

As you return your offering just now, think about the difference between persistence and stubbornness. When it comes to faith, are you more persistent or more stubborn?

Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

## Jeremiah 31:27-34

<sup>27</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. <sup>28</sup> And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

<sup>30</sup> But all shall die for their own sins;  
the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes  
shall be set on edge.

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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.

## Benediction

May the One whose fire  
etched the commandments  
upon the tablets of Moses,  
continue writing his Word  
upon your heart.  
Be blessed this week by  
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of our Creator God, and  
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Amen!