

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

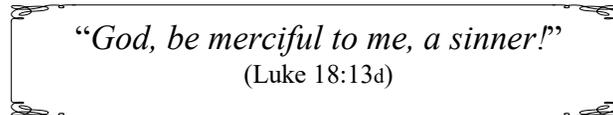
Long Green and Kanes Rds., near Glen Arm, MD

October 23, 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



Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)    “Jesus, let us come to...”    (*insert*)

Announcements

Prelude                      “Andante”                      Greig

\*Call to Worship                      (*Joel 2:26-28, adapted*)

One: Come into this place! God gives this promise:

“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.”

**All: “And my people shall never again be put to shame.”**

**We shall know that God is in our midst.**

One: Listen! There is only one God: No other!

Our children will prophesy and dream dreams.

**All: “And my people shall never again be put to shame.”**

**Give thanks, O people; God is coming!**

\*Hymn                      “Come, thou Almighty King”                      41

\*Opening Prayer

A Book for Children of all ages    “God’s Dream”    Desmond Tutu

Scripture                      Joel 2:23-32                      (*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                      “Jesus, let us come to know you”                      (*see insert*)

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel                      Luke 18:9-14                      (*from The Voice*)

Responding with a Unison Confession                      693

and a Song                      “Jesus loves me”                      341

(*add vs. 2:*) Jesus loves me when I’m good,  
When I do the things I should.  
Jesus loves me when I’m bad,  
Even though it makes Him sad... (*etc.*)

Message                      “*Prone to wander*”

Hymn                      (*vs. 1-2*) “Come, thou fount”                      521

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings                      2 Timothy 4:6-8

Offertory                      “Andantino”                      Schubert  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

\*Hymn                      (*vs. 3*) “Come, thou fount”                      521

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      “Lento”                      Schumann

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

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-10-23.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-10-23.mp3)

# Call to Worship

(Joel 2:26-28, adapted)

Stand if you are able, and rise in spirit. Let us join in the Call to Worship in your bulletin and on the screen...

One: Come into this place! God gives this promise:  
“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.”

**All: “And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.”  
We shall know that God is in our midst.**

One: Listen! There is only one God: No other!  
Our children will prophesy and dream dreams.

**All: “And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.”  
Give thanks, O people; God is coming!**

Turn to #41 and let us sing, “Come, thou Almighty King.”

# Opening Prayer

Gracious God, move our timid hearts to be bold like those of your prophets and hymn poets. We have come to worship; now we ask that you take our broken words, sounds, and sighs and make of them praises and songs that are acceptable to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

both Call and Prayer by David R. Miller, Pastor  
Montezuma Church of the Brethren Dayton, Virginia  
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin for Oct. 25, 1998  
© 1998 Brethren Press.

A Book for Children of all ages

**“God’s Dream”**

by Desmond Tutu

## Joel 2:23-32

A good dream, God's dream for a child... There are children in this world today, however, who experience nightmares instead of dreams. Wars, or floods, or famines, or abuse threatens to tear their little world apart. Think of these children as we turn now to the second chapter of Joel, who speaks God's promise to the children of Israel. They have suffered a great deal, which the first chapter describes. Amid this disaster, the prophet calls God's people to wake up, to repent. Then he speaks God's dream for them, a promise to which we turn today. Listen!...

<sup>23-24</sup> Children of Zion, celebrate!

Be glad in your GOD.

He's giving you a teacher

to train you how to live right—

Teaching, like rain out of heaven, showers of words

to refresh and nourish your soul,

just as he used to do.

And plenty of food for your body—silos full of grain,

casks of wine and barrels of olive oil.

<sup>25-27</sup> “I'll make up for the years of the locust,

the great locust devastation—

Locusts savage, locusts deadly,

fierce locusts, locusts of doom,

That great locust invasion

I sent your way.

You'll eat your fill of good food.

You'll be full of praises to your GOD,

The God who has set you

back on your heels in wonder.

Never again will my people be despised.

You'll know without question

that I'm in the thick of life with Israel,

That I'm your GOD, yes, *your* GOD,

the one and only real God.

Never again will my people be despised.

<sup>28-32</sup> “And that's just the beginning: After that—

“I will pour out my Spirit

on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy,

also your daughters.

Your old men will dream,

your young men will see visions.

I'll even pour out my Spirit on the servants,

men and women both.

I'll set wonders in the sky above

and signs on the earth below:

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,

the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Judgment Day of GOD,

the Day tremendous and awesome.

Whoever calls, ‘Help, GOD!’

gets help.

On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be a great rescue—just as GOD said.

Included in the survivors

are those that GOD calls.”

from *The Message*

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

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

*(known requests etc. on separate sheet, other notes penned in below)*

# Pastoral Prayer

*(prayed in the moment, prep notes penned in below)*

## Jesus, let us come to know you

by Michael Card



Je-sus, let us come to know you, let us see you face to face.  
Je-sus, draw us ev - er near - er. Hold us in your lov - ing arms.



Touch us, hold us, use us, mold us, on - ly let us live in you.  
Wrap us with your gen-tle pres-ence. When the end comes, bring us home.

## Luke 18:9-14

### Meghan:

We turn now to the Gospel, as revealed by Luke, chapter 18, verses 9-14. Listen to the Good News of Jesus!

### Pete:

Jesus told another parable—this one addressed to people who were confident in their self-righteousness and looked down on other people with disgust.

*[Pete speaks the introduction to the Gospel reading from the pulpit. As he then reads the first verse (18:9, above), he leaves the pulpit and walks down in front of the organ, shifting from the Pastor to the Pharisee in this parable. When he moves down, Gary (our treasurer) gets up from the pew and walks over in front of the piano. As he does so, he shifts into being the Tax Collector. Meghan, backs away as Pete reads, then steps forward to the lectern as Jesus. The Pharisee is all full of himself, with his nose high (looking down on everyone else). The Tax Collector, on the other hand, walks as if half expecting someone to tell him he doesn't belong. While the Pharisee boldly proceeds to the top step next to the pulpit as he speaks, the Tax Collector goes the corner for his part, just inside the post.]*

.]

### Jesus/Meghan:

Imagine two men walking up a road, going to the temple to pray. One of them is a Pharisee and the other is a despised tax collector. Once inside the temple, the Pharisee stands up and prays this prayer in honor of himself:

### Pharisee/Pete:

“God, how I thank You that I am not on the same level as other people—crooks, cheaters, the sexually immoral—like this tax collector over there. *(cast a haughty glance toward Gary, who stands looking down)* Just look at me! I fast not once but twice a week, and I faithfully pay my tithes on every penny of income.”

### Jesus/Meghan:

Over in the corner, the tax collector begins to pray, but he won't even lift his eyes to heaven. He pounds on his chest in sorrow and says,

### Tax Collector/Gary:

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

### Jesus/Meghan:

Now imagine these two men walking back down the road to their homes. Listen, it's the tax collector who walks home clean before God, and not the Pharisee, because whoever lifts himself up will be put down and whoever takes a humble place will be lifted up.

*(after a pause to indicate the scripture is concluded the Pharisee and the Tax Collector return to their seats)*

# Responding with a Unison Confession

On the screen, as well as in your hymnal (#693), is a *Unison Confession*. Let's pray it together as our response to this parable of Jesus, taking it to heart.

(pause until all are ready, then continue)

Together:

Father,

I have sinned against heaven and before you.  
I am not worthy to be called your child  
because I have not carried out your will.  
But speak a word of comfort and my soul shall be healed.  
God, be merciful to me, a sinner. AMEN

by Balthasar Hubmaier, 16th c.,  
based on Luke 15:18-19,21 and 18:13.  
Translation copyright © 1991 John D. Rempel.

## and a Song

Continuing to take it to heart, let's sing 2 verses to  
"Jesus loves me," both of which will be on the screen.

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.	Jesus loves me when I'm good, When I do the things I should. Jesus loves me when I'm bad, Even tho' it makes Him sad.
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*refrain:*

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

(after "Come, thou fount" (vs. 1-2) #521)

# Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

Yes, Jesus sought us when we were strangers wandering from the fold of God. Indeed, He came to rescue us from danger. It was His blood that was shed, not our own, and we have been set free from the power of sin and death.

We respond to this good news in many ways. In the last chapter of his second letter to Timothy, the apostle wrote the following:

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation (a drink offering, a sacrifice to God), and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for, who have set their heart on waiting for his appearance.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
(amplified by the NIV and CEB)  
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How we live our lives is an offering to God.  
We have set aside, as well, a portion of our finances to  
return as an offering today. Let's respond to the good  
news in this way just now... Ushers?

# Benediction

Let me bless you with the last few words in Paul's second letter to his young co-worker and friend, Timothy:

“The Lord be with your spirit.  
Grace be with you all.”

2 Timothy 4:22  
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