

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

November 6, 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

“...take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear.” (Haggai 2:4c-5)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “What is this place” 1

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship Psalm 145:1-5 (*Laughing Bird* version)

*One: We will declare you to be the greatest, God our king,
and put your name up in lights forever.*

**All: Every day, without fail, we will sing your praises,
we will honor your name now and forever.**

*One: You are wonderful, LORD; you deserve the highest praise,
and your greatness is more than we can comprehend*

**All: Each generation tells the next what you have done,
and speaks with awe about your accomplishments.**

*One: We will fill our minds with your splendor and glory,
and with the stories of your amazing exploits.*

*Hymn “Holy, holy, holy!” 120

*Opening Prayer

A Unison Affirmation of Faith from Psalm 145:17-21 (*NRSV*)

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Gospel Luke 20:27-38

For Children of all ages “The Next Place” by Warren Hanson

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Scripture 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

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

Hymn “I want Jesus to walk with me” 439

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Haggai 2:1-9

Message “*Work, for I am with you*”

*Hymn “Glorious things of thee are spoken” 619

*Benediction based on 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-11-06.mp3

Call to Worship

Rise in body or spirit
and join in the *Call to Worship*
printed in your bulletin.

*One: We will declare you to be the greatest, God our king,
and put your name up in lights forever.*

**All: Every day, without fail, we will sing your praises,
we will honor your name now and forever.**

*One: You are wonderful, LORD;
you deserve the highest praise,
& your greatness is more than we can comprehend*

**All: Each generation tells the next what you have done,
& speaks with awe about your accomplishments.**

*One: We will fill our minds with your splendor and glory,
and with the stories of your amazing exploits.*

Psalm 145:1-5
from the *Laughing Bird* version
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Now, turn in your hymnal to #120
and let us sing to the One who is
“Holy, holy, holy!”

Opening Prayer

Holy God, make your presence known to us today.
We come to you as we are, called to be saints, holy ones,
but so often less than our calling. Help us this hour to let
go of those sins to which we cling. Help us to know that
our self-worth does not depend so much on our ability to
hold on to our lives, as on your power to release ourselves
into your hands.

Holy God, make your presence known to us today.
We come to you with our vision so often clouded by our
sin. Clear away the mist, through Jesus, that we can catch
a glimpse, now, of your presence here. Help us to behold
you as you are, not as we would like you to be. In Him,
through whom we become holy, on the wings of the
Spirit, we pray to you, our Father. Amen.

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/worship/prayers-etc/opening.htm#c-2>

A Unison Affirmation of Faith

from Psalm 145:17-21

In the Bible, we find many statements about who God is and what God does. Printed in your bulletin is one from Psalm 145. Take a moment and read it over. ...

Can you affirm this statement? That is, do you believe it? I invite you to read this as an affirmation of your faith, of our faith ... together.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever & ever.

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Luke 20:27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him²⁸ and asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless;³⁰ then the second³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.³² Finally the woman also died.³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.³⁶ Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

“The Next Place” we travel today in worship is our offering, returning to God our gratitude with gifts that help this church fulfill its mission... Last Monday, children around us dressed up in costumes to “trick or treat.” It was *Halloween*, after all – also known as “*All Hallows Eve*,” the night before “*All Hallows*” or *All Saints Day*.

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia.

Oh, bless'd communion, fellowship divine!

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are one in thee for all are thine.

Alleluia.” *

Pray with me.

Thank you, Lord, for keeping little ones safe this week on a night of fun and mischief. Thank you, also, for the witness of those who have walked by faith on this journey before us, following Jesus. Through these offerings we are about to share, help us to be a witness for those who come after us. It is a privilege to give to a cause that shall have no end, in this world or the next. Amen

Ushers?

*Hymnal #636, verses 1 & 4
by William W. How, 1864

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

¹ Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us — whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter — asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

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A note before Joys and Concerns

From this scripture text and others, some folks have spent a lot of time and energy trying to figure out who this “*man of lawlessness*” to whom the apostle Paul referred might be in our present day and age. Some have asserted that it is Obama, others no doubt are pointing to Hillary or Trump. Look back any number of years and other prominent leaders were also so indicted. It appears that the purpose of such an exercise is to make people afraid, which is just the opposite of Paul’s intent in his letter to the Thessalonian church.

He was saying, “don’t let anyone make you afraid about the future.” Why? Because tomorrow is in God’s hands. That’s something we need to remember as we approach this election on Tuesday. The future is in God’s hands, no matter who wins. That doesn’t mean we should stop working for what we believe is right. It does mean that we should do so without being controlled by fear. Don’t be afraid. Better yet, don’t let others make you afraid. As Paul wrote elsewhere, “*God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*” (2 Timothy 1:7). How many ways can we say that, until we truly believe it?

Pastoral Prayer

(prayed in the moment, as led by the Holy Spirit)

Haggai 2:1-9

In the second year of King Darius,

¹ in the seventh month,

on the twenty-first day of the month,

the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai,
saying:

² Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,
governor of Judah,

and to Joshua son of Jehozadak,
the high priest,

and to the remnant of the people,
and say,

³ Who is left among you

that saw this house in its former glory?

How does it look to you now?

Is it not in your sight as nothing?

⁴ Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel,

says the Lord;

take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak,
the high priest;

take courage, all you people of the land,
says the Lord;

work, for I am with you,

says the Lord of hosts,

⁵ according to the promise that I made you
when you came out of Egypt.

My spirit abides among you;
do not fear.

⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts:

Once again, in a little while,

I will shake the heavens and the earth
and the sea and the dry land;

⁷ and I will shake all the nations,

so that the treasure of all nations shall come,
and I will fill this house with splendor,
says the Lord of hosts.

⁸ The silver is mine, and
the gold is mine,
says the Lord of hosts.

⁹ The latter splendor of this house
shall be greater than the former,
says the Lord of hosts;
and in this place I will give prosperity,
says the Lord of hosts.

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Benediction

(based on 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

Remember that God loves you.

God chose you to hear about that love
and to know the stories of Jesus.

Do not forget them.

Live by them every day.

And may God who created the whole universe,
Jesus who showed us how much God loves us,
& the Holy Spirit who guides us
be with you giving you courage
and strength
to be God's people every day.

by Carolyn C. Brown,
a retired minister of Christian Education
in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),
from her blog, "Worshiping With Children"
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/09/year-c-proper-27-32nd-sunday-in.html>