

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

November 13, 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 will be your chance to tell about your faith.  
Don’t worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will  
give you the wisdom to know what to say...” (Luke 21: 13-15a CEV)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Lift every voice & sing” (vs. 1) 579

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship                      Isaiah 12                      (NRSV)

*(sing “Surely it is God who saves me” on insert/overhead when directed)*

\*Hymn                      “Praise, my soul, the God of heaven”                      63

\*Opening Prayer

Scripture                      Isaiah 65:17-25                      (CEV)

Hymn                      (vs.1-2) “He leadeth me”                      599

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

Hymn                      (vs.3-4) “He leadeth me”                      599

Pastoral Prayer

Returning our Tithes and Offerings                      2 Thessalonians 3:13

Offertory Video                      “Legacy”                      Nichole Nordeman  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Gospel Dramatized                      Luke 21:5-19<sup>+</sup>

Message                      *“In the crucible of adversity”*

\*Hymn                      “Lift every voice and sing”                      579

\*Benediction                      (insert/overhead)

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-11-13.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-11-13.mp3)

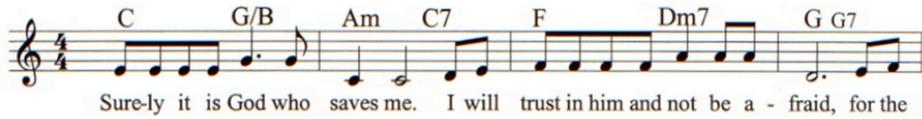
# Call to Worship

Isaiah 12

## Surely it is God who saves me

Isaiah 12:2

by Jack Noble White



from "The First Song Of Isaiah"  
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CCLI #1347096

*You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me.*

**refrain:** *"Surely it is God who saves me..."*

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.*

**refrain:** *"Surely it is God who saves me..."*

*Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

**refrain:** *"Surely it is God who saves me..."*

Rise, people of God,  
let your heart sing,  
your spirit soar,  
your ears open,  
your mouth declare  
"Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,"  
#63 in your hymnal.

Isaiah 12:1, 3-6 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
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National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
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## Opening Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. Enter through the door we open to you this morning, once again hearing your knock. Every day we rise to new life in you, even as we daily lay aside the weight of sin and turn toward the One who sent you.

Come, Holy Spirit. Breathe into us the vitality we need to face into a new day and week. Empower our faithfulness, as we seek to be who we were created to be and do what we have been called to do.

Come, Trustworthy God. Forgive us yet again our debts and trespasses, that we might become more merciful toward others. Continue giving what we truly need to labor on today and tomorrow, journeying toward your kingdom come.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated.

## Isaiah 65:17-25

Imagine you are a refugee returning home to a war-torn city. Everything you once knew is rubble. How can you rebuild your life? How can a once-vibrant society be again? It's easy to lose hope. That's the situation to which the prophet Isaiah speaks... *(begin video)* ...Using this footage filmed recently of what remains of the city of Aleppo, caught in the middle of the Syrian civil war, try to listen to Isaiah's words of hope from God from the position of someone who has lost everything. You live on the edge, unsure of what tomorrow may bring, if there is a tomorrow. Instead of simply appropriating God's promises to fit our needs, let's allow scripture to speak as it was truly intended. What hope do you hear? ...

The Word of God:

*(read intentionally, pausing between lines)*

- 1 - I am creating new heavens and a new earth; everything of the past will be forgotten...
- 2 - Celebrate and be glad forever! I am creating a Jerusalem, full of happy people.
- 1 - I will celebrate with Jerusalem and all of its people; there will be no more crying or sorrow in that city.
- 2 - No child will die in infancy; everyone will live to a ripe old age.
- 1 - Anyone a hundred years old will be considered young, and to die younger than that will be considered a curse.

- 2 - My people will live in the houses they build; they will enjoy grapes from their own vineyards.
- 1 - No one will take away their homes or vineyards.
- 2 - My chosen people will live to be as old as trees, and they will enjoy what they have earned.
- 1 - Their work won't be wasted, and their children won't die of dreadful diseases.
- 2 - I will bless their children and their grandchildren.
- 1 - I will answer their prayers before they finish praying.
- 2 - Wolves and lambs will graze together; lions and oxen will feed on straw.
- 1 - Snakes will eat only dirt! They won't bite or harm anyone on my holy mountain.
- 2 - I, the Lord, have spoken!

*(video runs in silence until it ends)*

scripture text from the *Contemporary English Version*®  
Copyright © 1995 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

video source: <https://youtu.be/rkb3y6K3waU>

# Pastoral Prayer

*(prayed in the moment)*

# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Toward the end of his second letter to the gathered believers in Thessalonika, the apostle Paul wrote this: *“Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.”* (NRSV). *“Don’t get discouraged”* (CEB). *“Don’t lose your zest”* for it. (Cotton Patch). Just keep on keepin’ on doing what’s right.

As you return your offerings just now, ponder the song by Nichole Nordeman, the chorus of which states:

“I want to leave a legacy,  
how will they remember me?  
Did I choose to love?  
Did I point to you enough?  
To make a mark on things  
I want to leave an offering  
A child of mercy and grace  
who blessed your name unapologetically  
and leave that kind of legacy.” \*

Ushers?

# Gospel Dramatized

Luke 21:5-19

## 1. Who do you depend upon?

- 1 - *Some people around Jesus were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God.*
- 2 - *(looking around) Isn't this just the most beautiful church, you've ever seen?*
- 3 - *Yes, we definitely have the nicest one in the area.*
- 1 - *We dedicated it to God, and he certainly has blessed us!*
- 2 - *I'm sure other folks in this valley would love to have what we've got.*
- 1 - *"But Jesus said: "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."*

## 2. To whom do you listen?

- 1 - *They asked Jesus:*
- 2 - *Teacher, when will these things happen?*
- 3 - *And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?*
- 1 - *He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming,*
- 2 - *I am the One!*
- 3 - *The time is near!"*

2 - Follow me!

3 - Listen to me!

1 - *But Jesus said: "Do not follow them."*

## 3. Who do you turn to?

- 1 - *Jesus said: "When you hear of wars and revolutions.....*
- 2 - *(like a reporter) The war in Syria reached a new intensity today as missiles landed.....*
- 3 - *(like a reporter) The residents of the city continue to live in fear. Many have fled.....*
- 1 - *Do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."*
- 2 - *Military exercises continued today in foreign waters. Response was swift with ....*
- 3 - *Planes carried out a bombing attack before daybreak today.....*
- 1 - *Jesus said: "There will be great earthquakes ....*
- 2 - *More than one hundred thousand people lost their lives in a devastating earthquake. Authorities say the quake measured 8.1 on the Richter scale ....*
- 1 - *sickness.....*
- 3 - *The virus continues to spread through our community. Health authorities claim they are in epidemic proportions and show no signs of letting up ....*
- 1 - *famines in various places..."*

2 - Two more shipments of food reached port but never made it to the starving masses. Warlords continue to control....

1 - *Jesus continued: "Fearful events and great signs will come from heaven."*

2 - Scientists claim two asteroids are on a collision course...

3 - How much science fiction can become actual reality?

#### 4. Where do your loyalties lie?

1 - *Jesus said: "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you."*

2 - You're under arrest!

3 - Take that!

2 - No one with a cell phone camera around. Knock a little sense into him!

3 - Teach him a lesson!

1 - Jesus said: *"They will deliver you to synagogues...*

2 - Don't you know the stories about Jesus aren't really true?

3 - If your Christianity really worked, you wouldn't be suffering like this.....

1 - *and put you in jail....*

2 - We'll put you away for good!

1 - *and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name."*

3 - Why do you believe when it is against the law?

2 - You are going against the very things our country stands for. You traitor!

#### 5. Where do you get your words?

1 - *"However, this will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict."*

2 - Well, actually, you make a lot of sense.

3 - I think I'll have to think about this - you have a point.

1 - *"You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends....*

3 - Come on, I'm your mother. After all I've done for you, how can you waste your life following Jesus.

2 - I've been your best friend since kindergarten. You're too smart for all this. You've been brainwashed.

1 - *and they will put some of you to death. All people will hate you because of me."*

2 & 3 - Kill them! Kill them! Kill them!

1 - *Jesus said: "But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life."*

by C.R. Broadstock and Ann Scull (adapted)  
Boronia Road Uniting Church  
Boronia, Victoria, Australia  
[www.bruc.com.au](http://www.bruc.com.au)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com/2016/11/proper-28-ordinary-33-c-november-13.html>

# Benediction

There are wars and rumors of war.

**We trust Jesus.**

There are signs of destruction to come,  
signs of terrorism and nuclear war,  
signs of environmental disaster.

**We trust Jesus.**

There are a thousand things we can do today:  
Sports, shopping, movies, texting, games, fun with  
friends, and things we may be tempted to enjoy  
but not want some others to know.

**We trust Jesus.**

Jesus sends us into this world,  
with its wars, its fears, its troubles,  
its distractions, its diversions, and its temptations.

**We trust Jesus,  
and we follow him into this world,  
not out of it!**

Listen to his voice.

Rely on the Spirit's strength.

Trust the love of the One he called Father.

**We are sent to speak and live with one another  
and our neighbors  
as living signs of God's Truth.**