

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 2, 2017

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

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

*“I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.” (Ezekiel 37:14)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “Awake, arise, O sing...”                      56

Announcements

Prelude Video                      “What we do – Heifer International”

\*Call to Worship                      Psalm 130

(L - Leader, C - Congregation, M - Men, W - Women)

L: Out of the depths of despair, I cry to you, O God;

**C: praying that you would hear my anguished calls for help.**

L: I could not stand if you counted my sins against me;

**C: for I would be utterly helpless and my hope would be gone.**

L: But out of your mercy and grace, you restore my hope.

**C: We worship and adore you, O God, we stand in awe of your great mercy.**

M: O how I yearned to hear the promise of your forgiveness

*W: with a longing as great as a watcher in the night waits for the dawn.*

M: O that all people would put their trust in you, O God,

*W: and experience your steadfast love and forgiveness.*

**C: We worship and adore you, O God, we stand in awe of your great mercy.**

\*Hymn                      “O bless the Lord, my soul”                      80

\*Opening Prayer

Scripture                      John 11:1-45 (abridged)                      from *The Message*

Hymn                      “In the bulb there is a flower”                      614

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

Hymn                      “When Jesus wept”                      234

Pastoral Prayer

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

\*Response                      “Spirit of the living God”                      349

\*Dedication

Visual Word                      Ezekiel 37:1-10

Spoken Word                      Ezekiel 37:11-14

Message                      “O dry bones, hear...”

\*Hymn                      “Breathe on me, breath of God”                      356

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

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

message to be posted at

[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-02.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-02.mp3)

# Call to Worship

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**C: We worship and adore you, O God, we stand in awe of your great mercy.**

Psalm 130, adapted  
from Liturgies Online, by Rev Moira Laidlaw,  
Uniting Church in Australia.

Please rise and let us sing,  
“O bless the Lord, my soul”  
Hymn #80

# Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we know that there are times when our attitudes and behavior, our words and deeds, can so distance us from you that our lives become arid and lifeless, lacking meaning and hope. But you breathe new hope into our lives in Jesus and through the gift of your Spirit. The areas we thought were dead spring into life and circumstances we believed were beyond redemption suddenly take on a new light. Wounded hearts are healed of their resentment and desire for revenge. Our vision expands to discern the signs of mercy and love which are present when we set our minds on your holiness and on the depth of your love for us. Love revealed so clearly in Jesus' persistence in showing how the power of evil and even death can be overcome when lives are linked with yours through him. We worship and adore you, O God, with hearts filled with gratitude and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

from Liturgies Online, by Rev Moira Laidlaw,  
Uniting Church in Australia.

Please be seated.

# John 11:1-45

(abridged)

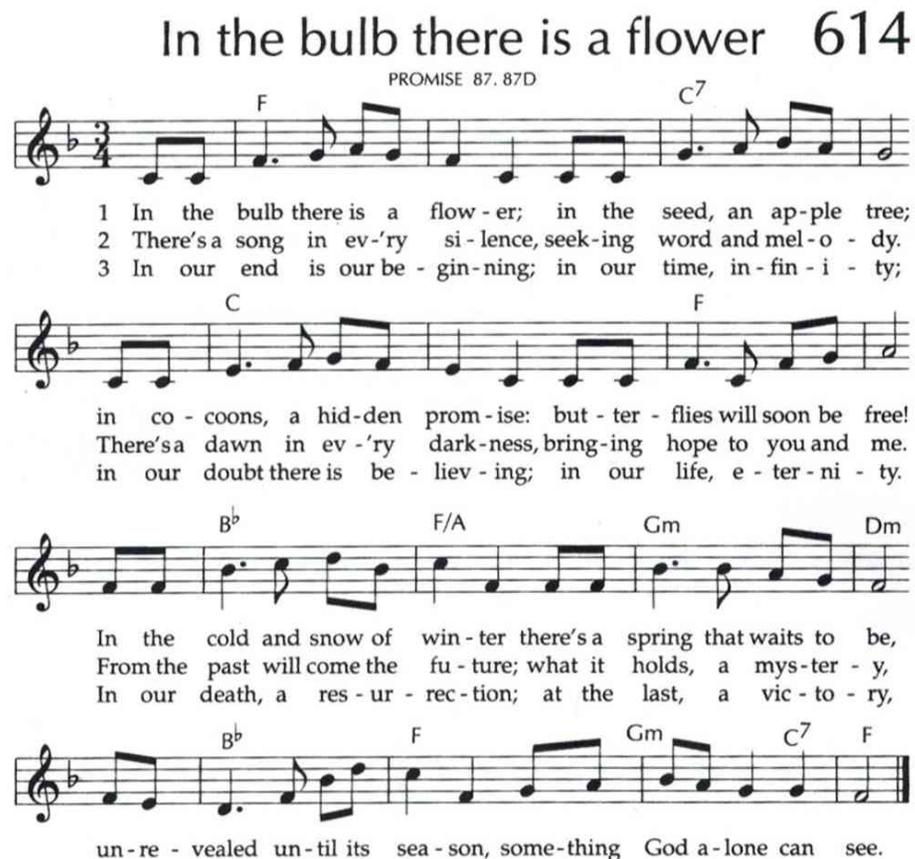
- 1 - A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, brother of Mary and her sister Martha. The sisters sent word to Jesus, “Master, the one you love so very much is sick.”
- 2 - When Jesus got the message, he said, “This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God’s glory by glorifying God’s Son.”
- 1 - Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days.
- 2 - When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead.
- 1 - Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house.
- 2 - Martha said, “Master, if you’d been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you.”
- 1 - Jesus said, “Your brother will be raised up.”
- 2 - Martha replied, “I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time.”
- 1 - “You don’t have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?”
- 2 - “Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world.”
- 1 - After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear,
- 2 - “The Teacher is here and is asking for you.”
- 1 - Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying,
- 2 - “Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
- 1 - When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, “Where did you put him?”
- 2 - “Master, come and see,” they said.
- 1 - Now Jesus wept.
- 2 - The Jews said, “Look how deeply he loved him.” Others among them said, “Well, if he loved him so much, why didn’t he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man.”
- 1 - Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”
- 2 - The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, “Master, by this time there’s a stench. He’s been dead four days!”
- 1 - Jesus looked her in the eye. “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

- 2 - Then, to the others,
- 1 - “Go ahead, take away the stone.”
- 2 - They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed,
- 1 - “Father, I’m grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I’ve spoken so that they might believe that you sent me.”
- 2 - Then he shouted,
- 1 - (*shout!*) “Lazarus, come out!”
- (pause for a moment)*
- 2 - And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them,
- 1 - “Unwrap him and let him loose.”
- 2 - That was a turnaround for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him.

from *The Message*, adapted  
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## In the bulb there is a flower 614

PROMISE 87. 87D



1 In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev-'ry si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o-dy.  
 3 In our end is our be-gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i-ty;  
 in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!  
 There's a dawn in ev-'ry dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be-liev-ing; in our life, e-ter-ni-ty.  
 In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y,  
 In our death, a res-ur-rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to-ry,  
 un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

Text: Natalie Sleeth, 1985  
 Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1985  
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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)

Hymn  
 “When Jesus wept” #234

# Pastoral Prayer

“*Jesus wept.*” We memorize that scripture verse, O Lord, not just because it is short and easy to remember, but also because it opens us to the depth of your love. Whether he cried out of a shared anguish over the loss of one so dear, or due to frustration over the thick-headedness of people who still didn’t catch a glimpse of the life he came to freely give, doesn’t really matter. That Jesus wept reveals his human side, your identification with us. For we weep, outwardly or inwardly, for so many different reasons, many of which we scarcely comprehend. Grief, anger, despair, frustration, sadness – a thousand things can bring a tear, whether it flows down our cheek or is swallowed in saving face.

Like Martha, we may note your seeming absence in the middle of a troubling situation, but also believe that you will make things right. Like Mary, we may simply wonder where you have been when things go wrong, partially lost in our doubts and fears. The truth is, O Lord, that we are like both Mary and Martha in this. And still you come to us, and weep with us, and speak to us. We may not always understand. Perhaps only some of the time do we grasp a bit of your glory, enough to nudge us to do what needs to be done, even if it involves caring for the dead. We marvel, God, at the faithfulness of those first witnesses of the empty tomb of your Son long ago, how they had it within themselves to go – as women have done for millennia – and care for his dead body...

Surprise us, Lord, with what comes after our sharing of joys and concerns ends. By speaking these things from the heart, we trust that there is more in every situation we have identified. We believe, though our faith may be as tiny as a mustard seed, that you are not done with anyone we have named. Move beyond our words, Creator and Sustainer of all things. Take even our doubts and fears, and rattle the foundations of what we know, that what we can’t explain might become real on earth, even as it is in heaven.

This we pray, in the name of the One who said, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*” Amen

# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

A glassblower starts with a bit of sand, which is heated to the melting point. It then is placed on the end of a pipe. Air is blown through the pipe into the glass to expand it. As more heat is applied, followed by more air, the melted sand is shaped and molded into a vessel of beauty. Perhaps it will eventually become a glass pitcher which will hold water to quench thirst. Maybe it will be formed into something else for another use.

In like manner, the way of the Spirit involves the melding, molding, and then using of our very lives. The process of becoming what God intends us to be may be uncomfortable at times, as we are melded and molded into something more than we are at present. The heat can be intense. Being shaped may seem more than we can handle. In the process, we are filled with the breath of God, and we become containers of the Holy Spirit.

In the following moments, I invite you to pour out some of the blessing God has poured into you. The ushers will help us now to return our tithes and offerings to the One who melds, molds, fills and uses us for glory.

## Offertory Video

*(glassblowing to the tune  
"Spirit of God, descend upon my heart"  
on guitar)*

*(motion for people to rise)*

## Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold, me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

## Dedication

May these offerings be used for your glory, O Lord, a "pouring out" what you have first "poured in." As we return them, though, we realize how far we fall short of what you are making us to be. Our self-centeredness is deep-seated and will ultimately lead us to separation from what we hold most dear. But, glory be, that's not the final word. Thank you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, and for the Holy Spirit, which you blow into us daily, shaping us for glory. Indeed, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

# Visual Word

Ezekiel 37:1-10

(<https://youtu.be/6dafYxu8cOO> - the video speaks these words)

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

# Spoken Word

Ezekiel 37:10-14

<sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’

<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

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Message

“O dry bones, hear...”

Hymn

“Breathe on me, breath of God” #356

# Benediction

May the breath of God give you life.

May the compassion of Jesus Christ shape your life.

May the power of the Holy Spirit stimulate your life.

from Liturgies Online, by Rev Moira Laidlaw,  
Uniting Church in Australia.