

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 16, 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

## Easter

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran...” (John 20:1-2a)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “I know that my Redeemer lives” 277

Announcements

Video Prelude                      clip from “Amistad”

Easter Litany (*uses vs. 5 of “Were you there,” #257*)                      (back of bulletin)

\*Hymn                      “Christ the Lord is risen today”                      280

\*Opening Prayer

The Gospel Story, part 1                      John 20:1-10

Chorus                      “Alleluia”                      (insert)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video                      Colossians 3:1-4  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

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

Hymn                      “In the bulb there is a flower”                      614

Pastoral Prayer

The Gospel Story, part 2

John 20:11-18

Chorus                      “Alleluia”                      (insert)

Message                      “*And so she ran*”

\*Hymn                      “Proclaim the tidings near and far”                      282

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-16.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-16.mp3)

## Alleluia



By Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
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Introduction to the  
**Video Prelude**  
clip from “Amistad”

As we prepare for worship, let’s ponder how we might have understood the story behind today’s celebration if it was completely foreign to us, and written in a language we did not understand. The 1997 movie, “Amistad,” is based on the true story of an 1839 mutiny aboard the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad*. Tribesmen from what is today Sierra Leone, who were abducted for the slave trade, managed to gain control of their captors’ ship off the coast of Cuba. Eventually floating near Long Island, New York, it was captured by a U.S. revenue cutter. A courtroom trial ensued to determine whose property these slaves were. Going all the way to the Supreme Court in 1841, they were declared free men. The following scene takes place in their prison cell as they await another day in a Connecticut court. A Bible has been given to one of the men, who cannot read it.

However ... watch.

*clip similar to this:*  
<https://youtu.be/uFmFX5nug4w>

*(verse 5)* “Were you there” #257:

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?  
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

## Easter Litany

Sing: *(verse 5)* “Were you there” #257

**People:** *Yes, Lord. We gather this Easter day to celebrate our risen Savior. Death is defeated. The shackles of sin are broken. The victory is won.*

Leader: Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

**People:** *Lord, we have been raised with you. May our hearts pursue everlasting treasures of love, justice, peace, and forgiveness.*

Sing: *(verse 5)* “Were you there” #257

**People:** *Yes, Lord. Because we have been raised with you, we have died to our old way of life. It is gone and we are now a new creation.*

Leader: You have died, and your lives are now hidden with Christ in God.

**People:** *Lord, when you appear again on this earth, well show up, too, in glory.*

Sing: *(verse 5)* “Were you there” #257

**All:** *Yes, Lord, we were there. Our sins were before us, but are now forgiven because of our trust in you. Alleluia, Christ is risen from the dead!*

Please rise, and let us sing:

“Christ the Lord is risen today”

#280

## Opening Prayer

Let's pray.

Each morning,  
we put on those  
comfortable garments  
of burdens and worries,  
but now they are gone!

Each day,  
we walk through life,  
our good and faithful  
friend, death, at our side,  
constantly whispering  
in our ears,  
but now he has disappeared!

Each evening,  
we empty our fears  
out of our pockets, leaving  
them on top of the dresser,  
but now, they have been taken away!

We could continue to live  
in the same old ways, the same old days,  
but now, resurrection life is ours,  
and we can sing, dance, and rejoice with you,  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
as we pray together, saying,

“Our Father, who art in heaven... *(The Lord's Prayer)*

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

*(Intro to Gospel reading)*

Please be seated... Now we turn to the primary story for this day, one of the many accounts of the resurrection in the Bible. On Friday, Jesus was killed – crucified, we say, nailed to a cross. Before the ending of that first day, before the Sabbath began at sunset, he was quickly placed in a tomb, even before his body could be prepared. On the second day – the Sabbath, what we call Saturday – no work could be done. His body laid in the tomb, without being washed and oiled. Then came the third day, Sunday, a lone woman (according to John) went to do what needed to be done. Listen...

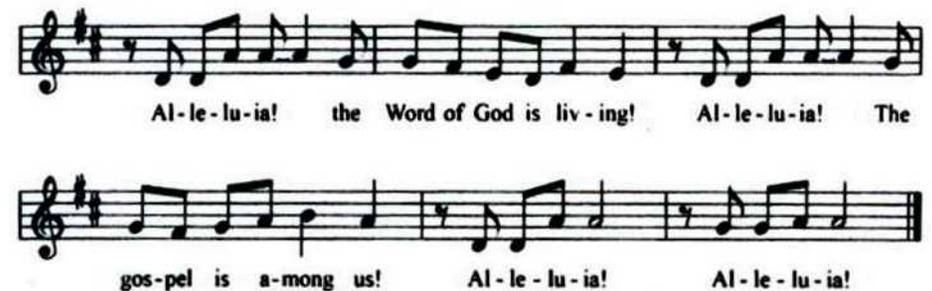
# The Gospel Story, part 1

John 20:1-10

- 1 - Early on the first day of the week,  
2 - while it was still dark,  
1 - (it was as yet still night)  
2 - Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw  
1 - (Do your eyes play tricks on you in the dark?)  
2 - she saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.  
1 - So she ran  
2 - (Wouldn't you run? This was not what she expected to find!)  
1 - she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,  
2 - the one whom Jesus loved,  
1 - (the one John's gospel does not name,)  
2 - and Mary said to them,  
1 - "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."  
2 - Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.  
1 - The two were running together,  
2 - but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.  
1 - He  
2 - (the other disciple)

- 1 - he bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.  
2 - Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.  
1 - He saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
2 - (Even in that dark tomb he saw. Had the day dawned by now?)  
1 - and he saw the cloth that had been on Jesus' head.  
2 - It was not lying with the linen wrappings but was rolled up in a place by itself.  
1 - Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;  
2 - He believed.  
1 - for as yet they did not understand the scripture,  
2 - that Jesus must rise from the dead.  
1 - Rise from the dead.  
2 - Then the disciples returned to their homes.

## Alleluia



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# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

An empty tomb... Upon seeing it, one disciple “*believed,*” even though *they did not yet understand*. One believed. The other was, was ... well, maybe a little lost. And Mary? As we shall hear in a bit, she was right behind Peter and the other disciple. What did she think about all this? Alleluia? Praise God? Not quite there yet. Which is okay.

Some of us come to church on Easter, and we sing “Christ the Lord is risen today,” but maybe we haven’t quite arrived at a point where our “Alleluia” is fully real to us. Which is okay. We don’t all travel at the same speed, nor arrive at all the same conclusions at the same time. God loves us all still the same. Easter grows on us. Or, better put, we grow in the mystery of the risen Christ. We may not comprehend it all, but God has got a hold of us, and won’t let us go. As the apostle Paul once wrote,

*“I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:38-39). Alleluia!

Now is the time to return our tithes and offerings, to put a bit of that “Alleluia” into tangible form, supporting the ministries of this church, as we seek to continue the work of Jesus... Ushers, come and lead us in this task.

# Offertory Video

<https://youtu.be/12K4feEyhn4>

[Embedded into this video is the following scripture, read three times by three different persons.]

Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> *So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*  
<sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,* <sup>3</sup> *for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* <sup>4</sup> *When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

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

### Hymn

“In the bulb there is a flower” #614

### Pastoral Prayer

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

# The Gospel Story, part 2

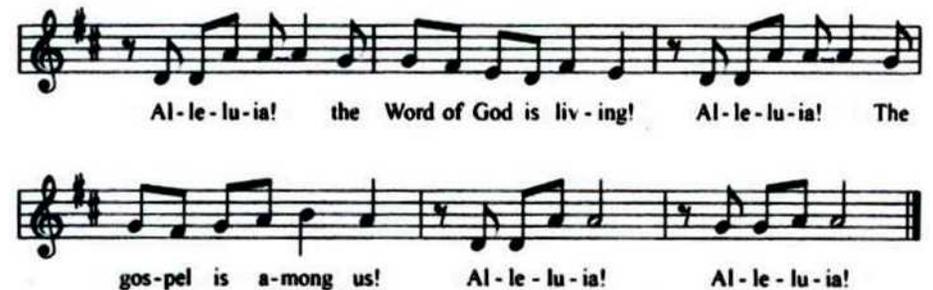
John 20:11-18

- 1 - But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.  
2 - (She must have followed them.)  
1 - As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;  
2 - and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.  
1 - They said to her,  
2 - “Woman, why are you weeping?”  
1 - She said to them,  
2 - “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”  
1 - When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.  
2 - Jesus said to her,  
1 - “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”  
2 - Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,  
1 - “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”  
2 - Jesus said to her,  
1 - “Mary!”

- 2 - She turned and said to him in Hebrew,  
1 - “Rabbouni!”  
2 - (which means Teacher).  
1 - Jesus said to her,  
2 - “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”  
2 - Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,  
1 - “I have seen the Lord”;  
2 - and she told them that he had said these things to her.

both part 1 and 2 adapted from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
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# Benediction

We have gathered to celebrate  
and to proclaim a mystery  
which cannot fully be understood,  
and yet the rhythm of its truth  
is in our very bones.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.  
And we have been raised with Him.

Now go out from this place and share this news.  
Don't force it.  
Simply allow it to come from within.  
Those who know you will recognize its authenticity.  
God will help them to catch the rhythm, also,  
because our Lord  
is already out there ahead of you.

So, be blessed by your Creator,  
held by the Love of Christ, and  
propelled by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen