

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 30, 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

Third Sunday of Easter

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:13)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “I know that my Redeemer lives” 279

Announcements

Prelude “From Thy Throne So High” Gluck

*Call to Worship

One: Lift your voices to God.

All: We call on the One who promises to hear us.

One: In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

All: We rejoice in the One who saves us.

One: We will break the Bread of life in thanksgiving to God.

All: We will lift up the Cup of salvation, drinking deeply from it.

*Hymn “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain” 264

*Opening Prayer (ends with *Lord’s Prayer*)

Scripture Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 (*Laughing Bird* version)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “God of Our Life” Purday
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture 1 Peter 1:17-25 (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 “Break thou the bread of life” 360

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Luke 24:13-35 (*Common English Version*)

Message “*On the road again*”

*Hymn “Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day” (insert)

*Benediction

*Postlude “Come, Divine Interpreter” Spanish Chant

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-30.mp3

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or spirit and join in the
Call to Worship printed in your bulletin.

One: Lift your voices to God.

All: We call on the One who promises to hear us.

One: In life, in death, in every moment, God deals
graciously with us.

All: We rejoice in the One who saves us.

One: We will break the Bread of life in thanksgiving to
God.

**All: We will lift up the Cup of salvation, drinking
deeply from it.**

Remain standing, and let us sing,
“Come, ye faithful, raise the strain”
#264 in your hymnal.

both the *Call to Worship* and the *Opening Prayer*
were written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,
currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Opening Prayer

When every day seems the same,
with no one listening to our dreams,
our hopes, our fears and worries,
you pause, God our Baker,
turning your head
so you can read our lips.

When every road seems the same,
filled with despair's potholes,
littered with pain's detritus,
you come alongside us, God our Lover,
pointing out that side road
that will take us to Abba's Fine Eats.

When every step trips us up,
when every loss weighs us down,
when every grief breaks our heart,
you come, God our Keeper,
with your book of grace
filled with easy words
and lots of pictures
to teach us hope.

When every one ignores us,
when every thing disappoints us,
you walk with us, you talk with us,
you refuse to abandon us,
God in Community, Holy in One,
so hear us as we pray as we are taught: “Our Father,
(the *Lord's Prayer*)

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

1 - Please be seated.

(pause)

2 - A song of thanksgiving from the Bible.

1 - We read from an Australian paraphrase of Psalm 116.

2 - Listen.

(pause)

1 - *I love you, LORD!*

2 - *How could I not love you when you always respond to my cries?*

1 - *You are always ready to listen to me,*

2 - *so I will bring my needs to you as long as I live.*

1 - *Once death was closing in on me;*

2 - *the grave's icy fingers had me in their grasp;*

1 - *Tormented and desperate, I cried out to you,
"Please, LORD. Help me! Save my life!"*

2 - *How can I ever repay you, LORD?*

1 - *What gift could ever express my gratitude?*

2 - *I will raise my glass in your honor,*

1 - *I will name you as the one who saved me.*

2 - *I will make good on all I promised you, LORD, and I'll let everyone know its for you.*

1 - *Whenever one of your faithful people dies it affects you deeply.*

2 - *LORD, you have released me from my chains.*

1 - *I will serve you forever, just as my forebears have done.*

2 - *I will bring a gift to say thanks;*

1 - *I will pray to you, and you alone.*

2 - *I will be true to the vows I've made; and I won't keep it hidden.*

1 - *In full view of all your people, in the public place of worship, I'll do all I promised you, LORD.*

2 - *All the praise and all the credit are yours, LORD!*

from the *Laughing Bird* version
©2001 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

On Thursday, I heard noise in the lightwell next to the sanctuary. Upon investigation, there was Mel with a weed-whacker taking care of a space the lawnmower doesn't reach. He and Lois are often here doing odds and ends that make this place inviting, you know. Why do they do this?... And Karl, now retired, can be found working on our meetinghouse, usually doing something of an electrical nature, but often more than that. Now, I know he is serving as an elected Steward, but he was busy on these things even before he was "official." Why is that?

Then there is Eva, who still takes her turn, along with Kay, leading us on the organ. I marvel at this nonagenarian continuing to use the gift God has so graciously given her. Even tho' some days she just doesn't feel like herself, she keeps on keeping on. I'm not sure how she does it, but I'm glad. You?... I could keep on listing more persons who voluntarily give of themselves behind the scenes to help us be this church of Jesus Christ. Why do they do it? Perhaps the word "obligation," or even "habit," come to mind. But me, I think it has more to do with gratitude.

Gratitude is not about repayment. There is, after all, no way we could ever pay God back for what we've received. Nor can any gift we offer be enough to fully thank the Lord for saving us. In truth, however, our gratitude is like a stream, the headwaters of which are in God's kingdom. Active gratefulness is like this pitcher on

the worship center, which Zoanne has so artistically arranged. From it seems to flow a never-ending supply of water. Knowing a bit of Zoanne's recent journey, I see tears mixed in with that water.



Thankfulness comes from deep within us. Its source, however, is God in us. I don't know if Mel, Lois, Karl, Eva, Kay, or Zoanne are – in their moments of service – thinking, "This is God's hand in mine as I weed-whack, or repair a switch, or press the keys on the organ, or arrange the worship center." They're probably thinking lots of other things. But, truth be told, it all flows from God's never-ending, never-failing, always-active, ever-present grace. The same is true of what we return as our offering just now.

Gratitude! ... Ushers, please come forward and guide us in being thankful through our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

"God of Our Life"

tune: *Sandon* by Charles Henry Purday (1799-1885)

1 Peter 1:17-25

¹⁷ You call out to God for help and he helps—he’s a good Father that way. But don’t forget, he’s also a responsible Father, and won’t let you get by with sloppy living.

¹⁸⁻²¹ Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ’s sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It’s because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

²²⁻²⁵ Now that you’ve cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life. Your old birth came from mortal sperm; your new birth comes from God’s living Word. Just think: a life conceived by God himself! That’s why the prophet said,

The old life is a grass life,
its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers;
Grass dries up, flowers droop,
God’s Word goes on and on forever.

This is the Word that conceived the new life in you.

from *The Message*
Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996,
2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson
Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group

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

Hymn

“Break thou the bread of life” #360

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my All-in-all.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord, we recall the story of loaves and fishes – how your Son

took and blessed and broke and shared with the multitudes gathered beside the sea, and thus fed them (Luke 9:10-17). But more than bread, he shared your Word with them, and it came alive in their hearing.

Just so, we long the same for ourselves this day. We have thus far heard the Psalmist sing and the apostle encourage. May your Spirit be active within each of us individually, and all of us collectively, as we inwardly

take and bless and break and then share outwardly what we hear from you this hour. For it is our responsibility, this ability to respond which you have given us, to move beyond sloppy living to glorifying you with our words and our deeds.

Help us to move toward being authentic, trustworthy, courageous, disciples who live out your love, and not just talk about it. Through your Word written, and your Word made flesh in Christ Jesus, and your Word interpreted and empowered in your Holy Spirit, you have conceived new life in us. May we never forget!

You have heard what we have shared just now, from our concerns for the welfare of others, to our joys along the way. We trust that you have been and will continue to be involved in all of them, working your will, as well as allowing life to simply unfold as a tapestry. May our prayers thread their way through, as part of your life-quilt.

We remember, also, how your Son took and blessed and broke and shared with his disciples what they needed on that last night with them (Luke 22:14-23):

Bread as an unleavened loaf.

Bread as your Word spoken.

Bread as his body broken.

Bread as your church being awakened.

Yes, Lord, “beyond the sacred page,” we seek you this hour. In your name,

Adonai, Elohim,

LORD God, we pray. AMEN

Luke 24:13-35 and message: *“On the road again”*

Hymn after the Message

“Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day”

http://www.carolynshymns.com/emmaus_bound_on_easter_day.html

Benediction

It's time to head out "on the road again."

Take with you the bread

you have this day received from the Lord,
in words spoken,
in thoughts pondered,
in spirit enlightened,
in heart awakened.

Bless others along the way,

holding them in the light of prayer,
seeing in them that of God who dwells in each,
knowing that the Lord
is already there ahead of you in life.

Don't be afraid to **brake**,

for perfection is not our calling.

After all, bread that is not cut or torn
isn't a real meal.

Jesus himself was broken for our sake.

We follow him.

Lastly, **share** freely as you walk the road.

Welcome people you don't yet know into your life.

Remember, as the book of Hebrews (13:2) says,

*"by doing that some have
entertained angels unawares."*