

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

October 15, 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

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your  
mind ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*  
(Matthew 22:37 & 39)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Jesus Christ, God’s only Son” 40

Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Song                      “All are welcome”                      *(insert)*

\*Call to Worship                      *(from Psalm 100, 113, and 133)*

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live  
together in unity!

**People: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the  
mountains of Zion.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: We will give thanks to the Lord in the company of  
this congregation.**

Leader: We enter into the Lord’s gates with thanksgiving.

**People: With one voice, we praise the Lord with singing.**

Leader: For our Lord is good.

**People: His steadfast love endures forever!**

Hymn                      “Renew your church”                      363

Opening Prayer

A Bible Story                      chosen by Rowan Bachelor

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

Hymn                      “Thou true vine, that heals”                      373

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

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Supporting the beginning of ministry training                      Meghan Knight

Scripture                      Matthew 22:34-40

Message                      “*Back to Basics*”

Responsive Litany                      congregation sings: “The Great Commandment”  
*(insert)*

\*Hymn                      “Heart with loving heart united”                      420

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[rockhay.tripod.com/sermons](http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons)

## Call to Worship

Please rise in body or spirit & join in the Call to Worship.

Leader:

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live  
together in unity!

People:

**It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the  
mountains of Zion.**

Leader:

Praise the Lord!

People:

**We will give thanks to the Lord in the company of this  
congregation.**

Leader:

We enter into the Lord's gates with thanksgiving.

People:

**With one voice, we praise the Lord with singing.**

Leader:

For our Lord is good.

People:

**His steadfast love endures forever!**

from Psalm 100, 113, and 133  
compiled by Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
co-pastor of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
from Friday eve worship at Mid-Atlantic District Conference  
October 13, 2017

Remain standing, and join in Hymn #363:

**“Renew your church”**

## Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

We come to you now with open hearts and open  
minds. Help us to love and serve one another. May we  
remember the love you have for us and to not take that  
love for granted. Show us your love as we sing praises to  
you this hour. In Christ we pray, amen.

You may be seated.

written by Meghan Knight

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## A Bible Story

*Having received a children's story Bible during worship on Sept. 17, 2017, Rowan Bachelor has nearly finished having his mom and grandparents read all the stories. The Sunday previous to this, he was invited to choose his favorite story from it (so far), and bring his story Bible to church for the story to be read at this point to him and any other children present. We think (from his first reaction) that it will be the story of "the big fish."*

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

Hymn #373

**“Thou true vine, that heals”**

# Prayer

God of love and mercy — who seeks the lost and the least, who teaches us to worship by honoring neighbor, may we be witnesses to the power of your love. May we be witnesses to the transformative power of your Word.

Gracious God, we long for your kingdom to come. We ache for the day when your will is fully known. We are painfully aware that your kingdom is here and not yet here; that your will is not always done on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us Lord for the times we become barriers to your kingdom come. Forgive us Lord for the times when we lead with distrust rather than understanding; when we are quick to anger and slow to compassion; when we speak without listening, using our words as a weapon rather than as a vessel of your love.

Our world feels broken, Lord. It is all too easy to be overcome with debilitating anger at every choice to favor divisiveness over understanding, self over community, deceit over vulnerability. And what's worse is how each of these hateful things make their home in our very being, taking root in our hearts like a suffocating weed.

But in our hearts is also an unscathed, un-manipulatable part that knows you are still at work. Strengthen this part of our hearts with a palpable hope and an unmistakable peace. Strengthen our bonds as your body that we might show the world another way of living, turning toward one another in a way that gives the gift of dignity. May we see each other through your eyes;

vulnerable and broken, yet made in your image. God take these broken pieces and make something beautiful. Bring your kingdom ever closer as we share in the prayer your son taught us to say:

“Our Father, who art...”

by Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
co-pastor of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
from Friday eve worship at Mid-Atlantic District Conference  
October 13, 2017

## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

We have shared with each other some of what lies on our hearts – our concerns for others and ourselves, and our joys. Then we brought them to the Lord in prayer. Let's continue that sharing with our offerings, which will help this congregation, and the larger church, fulfill its mission. Before doing so, please pray with me.

O God,  
our offerings proclaim that work  
and worship are one,  
that life is undivided.  
Use these gifts for your church's ministries  
of reconciliation, service, and mercy. AMEN

Hymnal #749, by Anne Neufeld Rupp,  
from Prayers for Corporate Worship,  
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Mennonite Publishing House.

Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

## Offertory

# Supporting the beginning of ministry training

In our bulletin every week there is a line which indicates that the “Ministers” here are “The People of this congregation.” When we are baptized, each person is called to ministry. How are we trained for this calling, when does that begin? Well, in a way it starts as we learn the stories of faith. I believe, for instance, that when young Rowan sits in his grandfather’s lap, hearing the stories from his Bible, God is working to prepare him for his own role in continuing the work of Jesus, should he decide later on to step into the waters of baptism.

While we are all called to ministry, some of us hear the call to become a *set apart* minister, someone who will step into some kind of ministry leadership. We have initiated that process with Meghan Knight. While we wait for the district to guide the formal process of her being licensed to the ministry, she has decided to begin her training by taking a course through the *Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership*, which starts this week. Please understand, her training began long ago on her parents’ and grandparents’ laps, and continued through Sunday School and other opportunities. However, now she begins a more in-depth training with an “Introduction to the New Testament.” For this she needs a textbook (*hand it to her*), and a study Bible (*hand it to her*), as well as an open mind, heart, and soul. Would you join me in prayer?

Bless, O Lord, these tools for training our sister. Help her to read with understanding, even if it is hard at times to focus. May she not become overwhelmed, both by the course itself, and by her busy schedule. Guide her instructor in this online class, that she and the other students may together be grasped by the only creed we Brethren claim – the New Testament. May her faith be challenged and deepened. Bless the time she invests. In a similar manner, bless all of us in the time we invest in your Word. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Matthew 22:34-40

(read by Meghan)

Message

“Back to Basics”

# Responsive Litany

*(first teach:)*

## The Great Commandment

Musical notation for 'The Great Commandment' in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and mind; and with your neighbor, as yourself, let this love be refined.' The chords are: C, F, Am, C, Em, D, G, C, Am, F, Em, F, G, C.

from Matthew 22:36-40  
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*Leader:*

With over 600 laws, the Pharisees asked, which commandment is the greatest? Remember the Sabbath? Laws for purity? Laws about divorce? Which commandment is the greatest? You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The greatest commandment is to love.

*All sing:*

“The Great Commandment”

*Leader:*

Love cannot be bought at the Hallmark store. Love is not pretty pink things with lace. Love is about transforming our hearts so that we turn and face one another. Love is about the dignity of everyone we meet and don't meet. Love is hard, heartbreaking work. This is why the greatest commandment is to love.

*All sing:*

“The Great Commandment”

*Leader:*

The most important commandment is to love God with our whole being. From Deuteronomy: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” The second command is not different than the first, but a continuation. We are to love God by loving neighbor. In both of these: the greatest commandment is to love.

*All sing:*

“The Great Commandment”

*Leader:*

Love is the foundation of all things. All the laws and the prophets hang on the embodiment of Christ's law of love. May all we do be refined by the example of Christ self-sacrificing love, for the greatest commandment is to love.

*All sing:*

“The Great Commandment”

by Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
co-pastor of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
from Friday eve worship at Mid-Atlantic District Conference  
October 13, 2017

Rise now, in body or spirit, and join in Hymn #420:

“Heart with loving heart united”

# Benediction

And now go forth,  
to love God with all your heart, your mind, your soul:  
    with passion, with prayer, with intelligence;  
to love your neighbor:  
    with forgiveness, with service, with love;  
and to love yourself:  
    with hope, with joy, with peace.

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

# Postlude