

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

May 13, 2018

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter ... Mother's Day

*"They went to the upper room they had been using
as a meeting place... They agreed they were in this for good,
completely together in prayer, the women included..."*
(Acts 1:13-14 from *The Message*)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) "Lord of the home" 490

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship Psalm 1 (from *Everyday Psalms*)

*Hymn "I heard the voice of Jesus say" 493

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

The story continues Acts 1:6-11 (*NRSV*)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory video "The Mom song"
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Unison Mother's Day prayer (*insert & overhead*)

The story continues Acts 1:12-14 (*NIV*)

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

Hymn "God of the Women" (*insert & overhead*)

Prayer

The story continues Acts 1:15-26 (*NRSV*)

Message "*First steps*"

*Hymn "Renew your church" 363

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-05-13.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

4. Teach us to keep our homes so fair,
that were our Lord a child once more,
he might be glad our hearth to share,
and find a welcome at our door.
5. Lord, may your Spirit sanctify
each household duty we fulfill.
May we our Master glorify
in glad obedience to your will.

Hymnal #490
words by Albert F. Bayly, 1947
text copyright © Oxford University Press, London
music from Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“Lord of the home”

1. Lord of the home, your only Son
received a mother's tender love,
and from an earthly father won
his vision of your home above.
2. Help us, O Lord, our homes to make
your Holy Spirit's dwelling place.
Our hands' and hearts' devotion take
to be the servants of your grace.
3. Pray we that all who with us dwell,
your love and joy and peace may know;
and while our lips your praises tell,
may faithful lives your glory show.

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

- 1 - Some wisdom from the book of Psalms to lead us into worship.
- 2 - Listen, and be drawn closer to the center of this life we have received.

(pause)

- 1 - Do not pursue happiness; it cannot be captured.
- 2 - Like a wild bird or a bouncing ball. it is always just beyond your grasp.
- 1 - Happiness comes from immersing yourself in God.
- 2 - Instead of struggling to keep your head above water,
 - 1 - yield yourself to the deep flow of God's universe.
 - 2 - You will not drown.
 - 1 - You will be swept along by forces beyond your imagining.
 - 2 - Foam on the surface gets blown around;
 - 1 - driftwood piles up on sandbars;
 - 2 - people obsessed with themselves end up as rotting debris on the rocks.
 - 1 - But the current rolls on.
 - 2 - So let yourself get carried away by something stronger than a social eddy.

Psalm 1, as paraphrased by James Taylor
United Church of Canada author
from *Everyday Psalms*
©1994 Wood Lake Publications

"I heard the voice of Jesus say"

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

Hymnal 493
words by Horatius Bonar, 1846
sung to an English folk melody

Opening Prayer

We do not notice, Holy God, but you give us
time, so we can think about your Word;
silence, so it may fill our emptiness;
wisdom, so we may know the path to walk.

We do not notice, Risen Christ,
how you have not given just a piece of yourself,
or a portion of your grace,
but all of who you are:
for us - and yet,
you regard US as God's amazing gift
to you!

We do not notice, Nourishing Spirit,
how you remove our fears,
simply by sitting with us
and holding our hearts;
or how you swirl around us,
pulling us deeper and deeper
into love, grace and peace,
until we find ourselves
rooted forever in the One
who watches over us forever.

God in Community, Holy in One,
hear us as we pray as we have been taught,
(The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

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

The story continues
Acts 1:6-11

- 1 - On this seventh Sunday of the season of Easter,
- 2 - which also happens to be Mother's Day,
- 1 - we continue the resurrection story we have received.
- 2 - In so doing, we shift from the Gospels to the book of Acts,
- 1 - from "tell me the stories of Jesus" to the coming of the Spirit and the birth of the church.
- 2 - Let's begin with verse 6 of Acts chapter 1 ... Listen.

(pause)

- 1 - *So when they had come together, they asked him,*
- 2 - *"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"*
- 1 - *Jesus replied,*
- 2 - *"It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
- 1 - *When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said,*
- 2 - *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

In the story as we have received it, the good news of Jesus rising from the dead is followed by his leaving 40 days later – ascending to right hand of God. This departure brought about a change for his disciples to the next stage of their life together. Please understand, however, that transitions like this do not happen easily. Where were his followers emotionally - were they sad, or did their expectations leave them open to new possibilities? Had they put 2 and 2 together from all Jesus had said, or were they confused by the cloud of his absence?

For three formative years Jesus had been right there with them, telling and showing the way. Like a parent, he'd prepared them for spiritual adulthood, but were they ready? His promise as he left, that they would "*receive power when the Holy Spirit*" came upon them – was this received as good news for them in that moment? Did they experience hope in what the angels then said? Those are good questions for us, also. Are we ready to grow up, faith-wise?

Growing up ... As it is Mother's Day, it's appropriate for us to celebrate this role in our lives. As we do so, let's not forget the pain of some who want to bear children but cannot, or those who have lost a significant part of their lives, their mother, too soon... Preparing children for adulthood - that's really a bigger task than one person can fulfil. It takes a village, as they say: an extended family. With that in mind, let's enjoy a humorous video, as we return our tithes and offerings just now. May we present, again, "The Mom song."

Ushers?

Offertory Video

“The Mom song”

Unison Mother’s Day prayer

*Please join in our “Unison Mother’s Day prayer,”
printed in your bulletin and projected upon the screen*

Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers.
We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs,
nourishing, protecting, and bringing us into the world.
We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us,
yet loved us just the same.
With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement
when we have felt unsure or afraid;
we thank you for their kindness
when the world has treated us unkindly;
we thank you for their soft, comforting arms
and the gentle way they kissed away our tears;
we thank you that they protected us
with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs;
we thank you for the times when they corrected us
rather than letting us continue down wrong paths.
Help us to live so that their investment in us
might not be in vain.
We honor our mothers with lives of service to you
in the name of the Risen Christ,
for it is in his Name we pray. Amen.

The story continues

Acts 1:12-14

(don’t read – it’s in video format in the ppt)

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

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←Unison Mother’s Day prayer
written by the Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn
until her death in 2016, she was a minister
of The United Methodist Church

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

“God of the Women”

to the tune SLANE (“Be Thou My Vision”)

1. God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

2. God of the women who walked Jesus’ Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

3. God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: “Who smiled at my birth?” —
In Jesus’ dying you show us our worth.

4. God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

5. O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answ’ring your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

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from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press, 2000)
www.carolynshymns.com

Prayer

With loving arms you enfold us all our days, O God, and you raise us to become what you birth us to be. Thank you for all you have done through many hands and hearts along our way, as well as for all we have not even recognized and realized as gift from you. You know us deeper than we know ourselves, before self-awareness when we were but a dream in our mother’s mind, as well as throughout all our days until we breathe our last and are known most fully in your presence. Because we cannot hide from you, we come before you just as we are, not as we might pretend to be.

Look upon us through loving eyes, O Lord, as your Son looked upon the world from the cross. “Father, forgive them,” we remember him saying, “for they don’t know what they do.” Indeed, we so easily and so often don’t do what is in your and our best interest, or do what leads to harm. With grace like that of a mother, your gently lift us when we have fallen and firmly nudge us beyond our stumbling steps to walk with heavenward strides. Keep on keeping on with us, empowering us to keep on keeping on with you.

You have heard what we have shared with one another. May joy overflow, and may our concern be answered by your active involvement in the lives of all we have here mentioned (as well as those who we have not), and by your prodding and empowering of us to be “church,” your body for others in this world. May your kingdom come and your will be done in and beyond us.

This we pray in the name of the One whom you entrusted to Mary of Nazareth, who raised Jesus to adulthood with the help of Joseph her husband, and all the other mother and father figures of their family and village. Yes, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

The story continues
Acts 1:15-26

- 2 - The story we have received in the book of Acts continues.
- 1 - The author, Luke, adds a few extensive parentheses, which highlight attendance and shares some gruesome details about Judas Iscariot we might wish to exclude.
- 2 - To help us participate in this scripture, imagine that you all are the group of believers gathered in Jerusalem.
- 1 - We do, however, need 2 persons to imagine themselves as those invited to become replacements for Judas.
(look for hands, and if none, call 2)
- 2 - Would you 2 please come forward and sit in the front row, ready to be nudged into position?
(pause until they are seated, then continue)
- 1 - Acts 1:15-26 ... *In those days Peter stood up among the believers*
- 2 - *(together the crowd numbered about 120 persons)*
- 1 - *and said,*
- 2 - *“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”*
- 1 - *(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)*

- 2 - *“For it is written in the book of Psalms,
‘Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it’;
and
‘Let another take his position of overseer.’*
So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.”
- (as reader 1 continues, reader 2 motions Barsabbas & Matthias to kneel – if able – before him, facing the congregation)*
- 1 - *So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ... Then they prayed and said,*
- 2 - *“Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”*
- (reader 2 then takes 2 sticks, makes one longer than the other, turns around to out of sight place them in hand, then turns back to Barsabbas & Matthias and motions them to pick as 1 reads)*
- 1 - *And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.*
- (reader 2 holds out hand to Matthias, lift him up and hugs. In a similar way, do the same with Barsabbas, but as gratitude for his willingness, even tho’ not chosen. Return to seats)*

Message

“First steps”

“Renew your church”

1. Renew your church, its ministries restore,
both to serve and adore.
Make it again as salt throughout the land
and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night
where greed and hatred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued.
Help us, God, be renewed.
2. Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine;
on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace;
from each page show your face.
As you have loved us, sent your Son,
and our salvation now is won,
O let our hearts with love be stirred.
Help us, God, know your word!
3. Teach us to pray, for you are always near.
Your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in you,
where we find strength anew.
Before your presence keep us still
that we may find for us your will
and seek your guidance every day.
Teach us, Christ, how to pray!

4. Teach us to love with heart and mind and soul.
You, O Christ, be our goal.
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate.
Leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life
to end hostility and strife,
O share your grace from heaven above.
Teach us, Christ, how to love!

Hymnal #363
words by Kenneth L. Cober
©1960 K.L. Cober, ©1985 Judson Press
Tune, “All is Well”, an American folk hymn,
adapted from Sacred Harp, 1844.

Benediction

Go now. Christ sends you into the world
just as he himself was sent into the world.
Delight in the Lord’s teaching,
testify to his resurrection life,
and share in the ministry of his people.

And may God protect you from the evil one;
May Christ Jesus give you God’s word & make you his own;
And may the Holy Spirit sanctify you in the truth,
and fill you with the joy of God.

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Postlude