

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 1, 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

... *Jesus said* ... “*Don’t be afraid; just believe.*” (Mark 5:36)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Come, we that love the Lord” 14  
Announcements

Prelude                      “Touch the hem of his garment”                      (*Sam Cooke*)

Call to Worship                      Lamentations 3:22-26 (*expanded*)

\*Hymn                      “Great is thy faithfulness”                      327

\*Opening Prayer

\*Summer Sunday School Activity      Psalm 30      (*Laughing Bird* version)

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

Hymn                      “Help us to help each other”                      362

Prayer

Scripture                      Mark 5:21-28

Message                      “*Just believe*”      (based upon Mark 5:21-43)  
by Matthias, apostle of Jesus Christ

Hymn                      “God, We Sense Your Peace and Power”      (insert)

Scripture                      2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

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

Song                      “Blessed be your name”                      (insert)

\*Benediction                      Ephesians 3:20-21

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

sermon is posted at  
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-07-01.htm>

# Gathered together to worship God

# Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

## “Come, we that love the Lord”

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.  
*Refrain:*  
We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion.  
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.
2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God,  
but children of the heavenly king,  
but children of the heavenly king  
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.  
*(refrain)*
3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. R  
*(refrain)*
4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry.  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
we're marching through Immanuel's ground  
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. R  
*(refrain)*

Hymnal #14  
by Isaac Watts (1707)  
refrain added by Robert Lowry

## Prelude

“Touch the hem of his garment”  
Sam Cooke & The Soul Stirrers

<https://youtu.be/QKADAdCwpYI>

# Call to Worship

- 1 - Love.
- 2 - Steadfast love.
- 1 - God's love.
- 2 - Overflowing... Never runs out.
- 1 - Mercy.
- 2 - God's forgiveness.
- 1 - Merci. (*French pronunciation*)
- 2 - Gratitude.
- 1 - Enduring... Never fails.
- 2 - New... Now... Listen...
- 1 - *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,*
- 2 - *his mercies never come to an end;*
- 1 - *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*
- 2 - *'The LORD is my portion,'*
- 1 - *says my soul,*
- 2 - *'therefore I will hope in him.'*
- 1 - *The LORD is good to those who wait for him,*  
*to the soul that seeks him.*
- 2 - *It is good that one should wait quietly*  
*for the salvation of the LORD."*

- pause -

- 1 - Love.
- 2 - Steadfast love.

- 1 - God's love.
- 2 - Overflowing... Never runs out.
- 1 - Mercy.
- 2 - God's forgiveness.
- 1 - Merci. (*French pronunciation*)
- 2 - Gratitude.
- 1 - Enduring... Never fails.
- 2 - New... Now... Stand and sing!
- 1 - Great is God's faithfulness!

Lamentations 3:22-26 (expanded)  
from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
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National Council of the Churches of Christ  
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Rise now in body or spirit and sing  
"Great is thy faithfulness," #327 in your hymnal,  
also projected on the screen.

# “Great is thy faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness  
morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!
2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(refrain)*
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(refrain)*

Hymnal #327  
words by Thomas O. Chisolm, 1923  
music by William Runyan, 1923  
text and music copyright © 1923,  
renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

# Opening Prayer

God, your love and mercy overflow into all the corners of our lives. You are faithful, even when we are not. We fall down on the job quite a lot, Lord, doing what we shouldn't, turning in the wrong directions. Yet you pick us up and get us on the way again. We are blessed. Merci. Thank you.

May the words we speak just now, the songs we sing, the prayers we lift up, what we think and feel, be pleasing to you, God. May this worship, and this week, be built upon your steadfast love which never ceases, your mercy which never comes to an end. In Jesus. Amen.

Please remain standing, if you are able.

# Summer Sunday School Activity

For our Summer Sunday School Activity (so that we don't get out of practice between now and September), we are going to actively read today's Psalm. Well, strictly speaking, "we" will not read the words. We will act them out with motions led by Erin Eiler, whom God has blessed with the gift of dance. Don't let the word "dance" scare you. These are just motions to stretch our bodies - right where we are - as the scripture stretches our spirits. Just follow along to the best of your ability. Do what Erin does. Today's paraphrase of Psalm 30 is from the *Laughing Bird* version, one we have used many times. Are you ready?

The Word of the Lord:

*I'll be singing your praises, every chance I get, LORD,  
because you got me out of deep trouble  
and spared me the gloating of my enemies.*

*I pleaded for help, LORD God,  
and you stepped in and healed me.*

*They were nearly ready to pronounce me dead  
but you brought me back, LORD;  
you put me back on my feet  
when I was about to be carried to the morgue.*

*So I'm singing your praises,  
and I'm encouraging everyone to do the same;  
to name you with joyful thanks.*

*We manage to get you angry at times,  
but it blows over in a moment  
because your mercy keeps on keeping on.  
We may have an evening of bitter tears,  
but by morning your mercy has us smiling again.*

*I was guilty of taking your goodness for granted;  
I thought I had it made.*

*You had put me on top of the world  
but I got all too full of myself.*

*You stepped aside — made me stand alone —  
and I turned to jelly!*

*I realized how much I needed you, LORD,  
and in my panic I begged you for mercy.*

*"What good is my blood to you?" I cried.  
"How will it help if I'm in the grave?  
Can a corpse sing your praises?  
Will a gravestone publicise your goodness?  
Give me another chance, LORD.  
Please, LORD, bail me out one more time."*

*And sure enough, you did, LORD.  
You turned my tears to laughter;  
you set my dragging feet dancing;  
you dusted me off and dressed me up for a party.  
So now I'm singing your praises  
from the bottom of my heart,  
and no one can shut me up!*

*You are my God, LORD,  
and I'm eternally grateful.*

Psalm 30 from the *Laughing Bird* version  
©2001 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

Please be seated.

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

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## “Help us to help each other”

1. Help us to help each other, Lord,  
each other's load to bear,  
that all may live in true accord,  
our joys and pains to share.
- 2.
3. Help us to build each other up,  
your strength within us prove.  
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,  
and fill us with your love.
- 4.
5. Together make us free indeed -  
your life within us show,  
and into you, our living Head,  
let us in all things grow.
6. Drawn by the magnet of your love  
we find our hearts made new.  
Nearer each other let us move,  
and nearer still to you.

Hymnal #362  
words by Charles Wesley, 1742  
(revised words ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.)  
music by François H. Barthélémon  
adapted by Robert Simpson, 1833

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose name is holy, whose kingdom is coming, whose will is being done even here on earth, we come to you as those who are often anything but holy, who -

we confess - infrequently seek you out to hear what you have to say. Our motives are often mixed, our thoughts unclean, our lives at times an absolute mess. Thank you, God, for sending your Son to redeem us, to make things right between you and us, to speak to us in a way we can understand, to touch our lives with your holiness, to reveal your great love, to fire us up with your Holy Spirit. Forgive our sin and our sins - the human condition over which we have little control, and the little impurities which we have allowed to grab us. May your forgiveness help us to step into the cleaning process, to do some “picking up” amid the messiness of our scattered lives.

Great physician, you have heard our sharing this day. You know very well the persons we have mentioned. We thank you for where we have seen your healing hand at work, as well as for where we - with our own limited vision - have not. We trust that you will address the concerns we have spoken aloud this day, as well as those that remain unspoken. We believe in you. May your will be done.

Lord God, speak your word to those who need to hear. May those who grieve the loss of a loved one, hear you say, "Don't be afraid. Just believe." May the mother who wonders where her family's next meal will come from, hear you say, "Don't be afraid. Just believe." May those lost amid all the violence and corruption and despair in the world around them hear you say, "Don't be afraid. Just believe." May people around world, as well as right here in our own neighborhood hear you say, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

In faith, we open ourselves to you. May the words I speak as your servant today, inadequate though they may be, allow space for your redeeming Word to become real to us. May our thoughts wander toward, instead of away from, you. May your Holy Spirit touch us with your holiness, and make us whole - in body, mind, and soul. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Mark 5:21-28

P - Last week, we paid attention to a “sea story” in the gospel of Mark (4:35-5:20), which immediately precedes what Meghan will soon read. In it, Jesus and his disciples crossed the sea of Galilee and got caught in a storm, which Jesus calmed with “*Peace! Be still!*” On the other side of the large inland lake, they encountered a man plagued by many demons, his inner storms tearing him apart. Jesus healed him, which frightened his neighbors who encouraged Jesus to leave. This morning’s gospel story picks up right at this point.

Perhaps, among the disciples, though not one of the twelve, was “Matthias.” After the resurrection, he was chosen to take the place of Judas Iscariot, as someone who had been a witness from the beginning (Acts 1:21-22), so there is a good chance he was in the background of this story. To be honest, we don’t know much about Matthias, aside from the first chapter of Acts. Likewise, we don’t know much about the suffering woman in this morning’s gospel story - not even her name. This leaves the door open to our imagination.

For the purpose of this message, I have made Matthias a native of the town of Magdala, located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. For better or worse, I have also made him a brother to this woman. Furthermore, I have given her a name - “Galyah,” which means “God shall redeem.” Here it’s a play on words. “Ga’al,” is a verb in Hebrew for “redeem.” Interestingly enough, “ga’al” can also mean “defile” - that is: make unclean. “Yah” comes from “Yahweh,” the holy name of God. These details may be fiction. However, the gospel remains true. After Meghan reads a portion of the story, I will pick it up, pretending to be Matthias.

M - Mark 5:21-28...

*21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. 22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet 23 and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” 24 So he went with him.*

*And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. 25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. 26 She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well” ...*

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Let me stop there and allow Matthias to tell the rest.

Message

*“Just believe”*

(based upon Mark 5:21-43)  
by Matthias, apostle of Jesus Christ

# “God, we sense your Peace and Power”

(Sing to: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)  
Based upon Mark 5:21-43

God, we sense your peace and power  
in this place we love so much.  
We are moved by gentle fragrance;  
we are blessed by healing touch.  
In these pews we hear the gospel;  
we see life beyond compare.  
Here we gather at your table,  
tasting love in meals we share.

Jesus taught, and crowds went with him;  
they knew illness, grief and strife.  
Twelve years sick, a suffering woman  
hoped his touch would change her life.  
Jesus stopped to heal and bless her;  
He healed Jairus' daughter, too.  
God we seek your gift of healing;  
touch our lives and make us new.

God, your gift of touch can heal us  
Through a hug or kind embrace.  
When we share the peace you give us,  
It can change us, by your grace.  
When we offer prayers for healing,  
Laying hands on those in need,  
By your loving, gentle caring,  
Those who hurt are blessed and freed.

## 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

<sup>7</sup> Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you. <sup>8</sup> I'm not giving an order, but by mentioning the commitment of others, I'm trying to prove the authenticity of your love also. <sup>9</sup> You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for our sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.

<sup>10</sup> I'm giving you my opinion about this. It's to your advantage to do this, since you not only started to do it last year but you wanted to do it too. <sup>11</sup> Now finish the job as well so that you finish it with as much enthusiasm as you started, given what you can afford. <sup>12</sup> A gift is appreciated because of what a person can afford, not because of what that person can't afford, if it's apparent that it's done willingly. <sup>13</sup> It isn't that we want others to have financial ease and you financial difficulties, but it's a matter of equality. <sup>14</sup> At the present moment, your surplus can fill their deficit so that in the future their surplus can fill your deficit. In this way there is equality. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, *The one who gathered more didn't have too much, and the one who gathered less didn't have too little.*

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# Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

That last verse is a quote from the book of Exodus, when God provided the Israelites with “manna” in the wilderness. Wandering about in that wasteland, the children of Israel were hungry and complained to Moses. God answered with daily bread from heaven – just enough to sustain them: not too much, not too little. In fact, if they tried to keep more of this manna than what they needed, it would spoil by the next day. But that was okay, because more would come with the rising of the sun.

As you respond to God’s goodness with your offering, remember how God provides us with enough for our daily needs. And, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians (who were relatively better off than their neighbors), our surplus can feed others who are hungry – day by day. Blessed be the Lord.

Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

## Offertory

# “Blessed be your name”

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow ... Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness ... Blessed be Your name

*Chorus 1:* Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

*Chorus 2:* Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's “all as it should be” ... Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering ... Blessed be Your name

*Chorus 1&2, then:*

*Bridge:* You give and take away ... You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say ...  
Lord, blessed be Your name

*Chorus 2 twice (quiet then loud),  
then Chorus 1 & 2. End with:*

Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name

# Benediction

*“Now to him who  
by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly  
far more than all we can ask  
or imagine,  
to him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21  
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# Postlude