



# Gathered together to worship God

# Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

## “Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit”

1. Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit, as adoringly we bow  
at these altars, pure & sacred, paying thee our solemn vow.  
All our feeble graces quicken with the streams of thy sweet grace,  
& make glorious with thy presence this thy holy dwelling place.
2. Thou art pure & thou art holy; Jesus, make us more like thee.  
Thou art meek and thou art lowly; so may we thy children be.  
Shed abroad thy love within us, fill our souls with light divine.  
Holy Spirit, seal, anoint us, and our earthliness refine.
3. Now receive us, as repentant to thy heart of love we fly.  
Pardon all our sin and folly, lead us to thyself on high.  
Oh, these hearts need thy refining, & the cleansing of thy blood!  
Consecrate & make us holy, thru redemption's crimson  
flood.
4. Here shall love, like sacred incense,  
upward mount to thy great throne,  
from the cleansed heart and conscience of a people all thine own.  
Humble are the gifts we bring thee, and upon thine altar lay,  
yet be gracious to thy children as they worship thee today.

Prelude

Hymnal #28  
words by Elisha Albright Hoffman, 1899  
music by J. Henry Showalter, 1899

# Call to Worship

We have begun the month of November, traditionally a time of gratitude for the harvest. Please rise in body or spirit, and let us enter into worship with that in mind, led by the words found in your bulletin.

(pause for all to stand and be ready)

*One: Our food does not magically appear on grocery shelves,*

**All: it comes from the land – harvested with care.**

*One: Though wind and flood have disturbed this season,*

**All: God has still provided growth, and farmers have reaped what they have sown in trust.**

*One: May there be enough for all to share.*

**All: We thank the Lord for all this bounty!**

(briefly pause)

Let us join in singing #96 in our hymnal, remembering that “all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.”

## “We plough the fields, and scatter”

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand. God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

*refrain:*

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.  
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

2. You only are the Maker of all things near and far.

You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.  
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.

*(refrain)*

3. We thank you, then, Creator, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. Accept the gifts we offer, for all your love imparts, & what you most would welcome, our humble, thankful hearts.

*(refrain)*

Hymnal #96  
words by Matthias Claudius, 1782,  
translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1861, alt.  
music attributed to Johann Abraham Peter Schulz, 1800

## Opening Prayer

Indeed, Lord God, the goodness that surrounds us comes from you as a gift. When we forget where our food comes from, help us to remember and be thankful. When we fail to recall that we are one people under your care and thus harbor suspicion of those with whom we disagree, help us to remember that we all share the same harvest as we vote this week. May gratitude be our common voice. Bless this time of worship, as with meekness we turn to you for all your love. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

# The Prophet Isaiah – 29:17-21

- 1 - The focus of our worship today is upon the third of Jesus' beatitudes according to the Gospel of Matthew.
- 2 - There he said, "blessed are the **meek**," words grounded in the Hebrew portion of the Bible.
  - 1 - Who are these "meek"?
  - 2 - What does "meekness" involve?
    - 1 - To begin our pondering, we turn to the prophet Isaiah to discover what meekness is,
    - 2 - and what it is not. Listen.

(pause)
- 1 - *Before you know it, and without you having anything to do with it,*
- 2 - *Wasted Lebanon will be transformed into lush gardens, and Mount Carmel reforested.*
- 1 - *At that time the deaf will hear word-for-word what's been written.*
- 2 - *After a lifetime in the dark, the blind will see.*
- 1 - *The **meek**, the castoffs of society will be laughing and dancing in God,*
- 2 - *the down-and-outs shouting praise to The Holy of Israel.*
- 1 - *For there'll be no more gangs on the street.*
- 2 - *Cynical scoffers will be an extinct species.*
- 1 - *Those who never missed a chance to hurt or demean will never be heard of again:*
- 2 - *Gone the people who corrupted the courts,*
- 1 - *gone the people who cheated the poor,*
- 2 - *gone the people who victimized the innocent.*

←from *The Message*, adapted  
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2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson  
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- 2 - With Isaiah in mind, might we agree that "meekness" does not involve:
  - 1 - *victimizing the innocent,*
  - 2 - *cheating the poor,*
  - 1 - *corrupting the courts,*
  - 2 - *hurting or demeaning or ganging up on others,*
  - 1 - *or being cynical scoffers?*
  - 2 - While we may say,
    - 1 - "I have never done anything like that,"
    - 2 - the truth is that we all have done our share,
      - 1 - either through our active efforts,
      - 2 - or what we have allowed by our silence.
        - 1 - Shall we make our confession to our God,
        - 2 - who provides all good things to all?
          - 1 - Please turn to the back of your hymnal to #690,
          - 2 - a confession adapted from Psalm 51.

# Responsive Confession

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;

**People: Blot out all our transgressions,  
according to your great compassion;**

Leader: Wash away all our iniquities  
and cleanse us from our sin.

**People: For we know our transgressions,  
and our sin is always before us.**

Leader: We have sinned against you  
and have done what is evil in your sight.

**All: as sacrifice we bring our broken  
and contrite hearts.**

(pause for silence)

Leader: God will create in each of us a pure heart.  
God will not take the Holy Spirit from us.  
God will restore to us the joy of salvation  
and grant us willing spirits to sustain us.

**All: Praise to the God of mercy who loves and forgives us.**

Hymnal #690  
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# Psalms 10:12-18

1 - Continuing our listening for what we might glean  
from scripture to better understand

2 - what “meekness” is,

1 - and what it is not,

2 - we turn now to the Psalms.

1 - In the following *Prayer for Deliverance*, we discover this.

2 - As we sometimes say: “Let those who have ears ↓

1 - hear.” → → → → → → → → (*cup palms behind ears*)

(pause)

1 - *Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget  
the oppressed.*

2 - *Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts,  
“You will not call us to account”?*

1 - *But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you  
may take it into your hands;*

2 - *the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the  
helper of the orphan.*

1 - *Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers; seek out their  
wickedness until you find none.*

2 - *The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations shall  
perish from his land.*

1 - *O LORD, you will hear the desire of the **meek**; you will  
strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear*

2 - *to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that  
those from earth may strike terror no more.*

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National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
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# Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise

## Prayer

### “The church’s one foundation”

1. The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Tho’ with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: “How long?”  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. ‘Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are bless’d,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek & lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

These are not fighting words, O Lord, a song to define who is in and who is out. Through meter and rhyme, this hymn instead draws all to you, regardless of the boundaries with which we seek to divide ourselves. In the grassland of Nigeria, the rainforest of central America, the rivers and mountains of Germany, the steppes of central Asia, the islands of the far east ... in all these places, among all these people we discern our one foundation. We do not use the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as a battering ram to force your way in – for you are already present throughout the earth. Among the meek and lowly around this globe you are at work, your Messiah having died upon the cross that all might live. Fill us with a sense of humility, a grounded-ness in your grace that leads us to the “mystic sweet communion” that binds us to you and to all whom you have sought as your children in this world.

No, these are not fighting words, O Lord. They sing out your good news in Christ - an invitation, not a barrier. They point us toward real prayer, where in meekness all are dependent upon your care, from the lowest to the greatest. We turn to you by faith, not placing ourselves above those who need, but sitting with them as a brother or sister who is just as needy. You have heard our spoken requests. In our hearts you know our own fear over illness or financial stress or mental struggle or family conflict or legal issues, or a host of other worries. We sometimes try to avoid thinking about such things, for there - but for a few different steps - might be us. Through your Holy Spirit connect us with those for whom we pray just now, and in so doing tie us to you by the grace of Jesus.

No, these are not fighting words, O Lord. They sing of your peace that exceeds our understanding, your hope that goes beyond our fears, your grace that is greater than our efforts, your victory that is more than our winning high-fives. Bless our receptiveness this hour with your wisdom. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh who dwells among us in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

# The Prophet Isaiah – Isaiah 11:1-5

- 1 - In our exploration of “meekness” in the Bible,
- 2 - we pay attention now to a familiar scripture,
- 1 - words often quoted concerning the coming of the Messiah.
- 2 - Listen.

(pause)

- 1 - *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,*
- 2 - *and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*
- 1 - *The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,*
- 2 - *the spirit of wisdom and understanding,*
- 1 - *the spirit of counsel and might,*
- 2 - *the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*
- 1 - *His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*
- 2 - *He shall not judge by what his eyes see,*
- 1 - *or decide by what his ears hear;*
- 2 - *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,*
- 1 - *and decide with equity for the **meek** of the earth;*
- 2 - *he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,*
- 1 - *and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*
- 2 - *Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,*
- 1 - *and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

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# Responding with Offerings

*“With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth...”* The good news according to Isaiah in which the gospel of Jesus is grounded. As you return your offering just now, continue to ponder “meekness.” What does “meek” mean to you? Who might be the best example in your experience of a “meek” person? Who are the “meek of the earth” for whom the Messiah will “*decide with equity,*” according to Isaiah? Let today’s sermon begin in your mind and heart before the preacher even opens his mouth. May it be as much a part of your offering to God as your monetary gift.

Ushers, please come forward and lead us by passing the plates.

## Offertory

# James 1:19-22 and Colossians 3:12

- 1 - Of course, we need to listen to the New Testament concerning “meekness.”
- 2 - As the sermon is based on the third beatitude of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew,
  - 1 - let’s turn to two apostolic witnesses: James and Paul.
  - 2 - First, hear the word of brother James.

(pause)

- 1 - *You must understand this, my beloved:*
- 2 - *let everyone be quick to listen,*
  - 1 - *slow to speak,*
  - 2 - *slow to anger;*
  - 1 - *for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.*
  - 2 - *Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness,*
  - 1 - *and welcome **with meekness** the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.*
  - 2 - *But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.*

(pause)

- 1 - And now a familiar verse from the apostle Paul.

(pause)

- 2 - *As God’s chosen ones,*
  - 1 - *holy and beloved,*
  - 2 - *clothe yourselves with compassion,*
  - 1 - *kindness,*
  - 2 - *humility,*
  - 1 - ***meekness,***
  - 2 - *and patience.*

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Video Message

*“Hurry up and wait”*



# “They that wait upon the Lord”

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings of eagles.  
They shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait.

Hymn #584  
text and music by Stuart Hamblen  
copyright © 1953, renewed 1981 Hamblen Music Co.

## O how blessed are the poor in spirit



1. O how blessed are the poor in spir - it, theirs is the King - dom of
2. O how blessed are the meek and hum - ble, they will in - her - it the
3. O how blessed are the mer - cy giv - ers, such mer - cy they will re -
4. O how blessed are the true peace - mak - ers, they will be known as God's



Heav - en. And how blessed are the sad and mourn - ful,  
earth. And how blessed those who hun - ger for good - ness,  
ceive. And how blessed are the pure in heart,  
child - ren. And how blessed those who suf - fer for jus - tice,



*Refrain*  
they'll be con - soled by God. Blessed and hap - py  
they all will feast with God.  
they sure - ly will see God.  
they will be hon - ored by God.



we shall be. Lis - ten to the Mas - ter's word! Soon the king - dom's com - ing,



Watch and see: the king - dom of the Lord!

by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh  
© 1979 Hope Publishing Company  
CCLI# 1347096

# Benediction

We end blessed by these words  
from the pen of Menno Simons:

- 1 - We are children of God's peace in this new creation,
- 2 - spreading joy and happiness, thru God's great salvation.
- 1 - Hope we bring in spirit meek, in our daily living.
- 2 - Peace with everyone we seek, good for evil giving.
- 1 - Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, confidence will give us.
- 2 - Christ the Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

Hymn 407, verse 2 and 3b  
words by Menno Simons, 1552  
Translation by Esther Cathryn Klaassen Bergen  
copyright © 1990 Mennonite World Conference

# Postlude

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

November 4, 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

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”  
(Matthew 5:5 NRSV)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit” 28  
Announcements  
Prelude

**\*Call to Worship**

*One: Our food does not magically appear on grocery shelves,*

**All: it comes from the land – harvested with care.**

*One: Though wind and flood have disturbed this season,*

**All: God has still provided growth, and farmers have reaped  
what they have sown in trust.**

*One: May there be enough for all to share.*

**All: We thank the Lord for all this bounty!**

\*Hymn “We plough the fields, and scatter” 96

**\*Opening Prayer**

The Prophet Isaiah - 29:17-21 (from *The Message*, adapted)

Responsive Confession 690

Psalms 10:12-18 (NRSV)

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

Hymn “The church’s one foundation” 311

Prayer

The Prophet Isaiah - Isaiah 11:1-5 (NRSV)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

James 1:19-22 and Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)

Video Message “Hurry up and wait”

\*Song medley “They that wait upon the Lord” 584  
“O how blessed are the poor in spirit” (insert)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

sermon is posted at  
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-11-04.htm>

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## Prayer

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Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek & lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

These are not fighting words, O Lord, a song to define who is in and who is out. Through meter and rhyme, this hymn instead draws all to you, regardless of the boundaries with which we seek to divide ourselves. In the grassland of Nigeria, the rainforest of central America, the rivers and mountains of Germany, the steppes of central Asia, the islands of the far east ... in all these places, among all these people we discern our one foundation. We do not use the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as a battering ram to force your way in – for you are already present throughout the earth. Among the meek and lowly around this globe you are at work, your Messiah having died upon the cross that all might live. Fill us with a sense of humility, a grounded-ness in your grace that leads us to the “mystic sweet communion” that binds us to you and to all whom you have sought as your children in this world.

No, these are not fighting words, O Lord. They sing out your good news in Christ - an invitation, not a barrier. They point us toward real prayer, where in meekness all are dependent upon your care, from the lowest to the greatest. We turn to you by faith, not placing ourselves above those who need, but sitting with them as a brother or sister who is just as needy. You have heard our spoken requests. In our hearts you know our own fear over illness or financial stress or mental struggle or family conflict or legal issues, or a host of other worries. We sometimes try to avoid thinking about such things, for there - but for a few different steps - might be us. Through your Holy Spirit connect us with those for whom we pray just now, and in so doing tie us to you by the grace of Jesus.

No, these are not fighting words, O Lord. They sing of your peace that exceeds our understanding, your hope that goes beyond our fears, your grace that is greater than our efforts, your victory that is more than our winning high-fives. Bless our receptiveness this hour with your wisdom. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh who dwells among us in Spirit and in Truth. Amen



# The Prophet Isaiah – Isaiah 11:1-5

- 1 - In our exploration of “meekness” in the Bible,
- 2 - we pay attention now to a familiar scripture,
- 1 - words often quoted concerning the coming of the Messiah.
- 2 - Listen.

(pause)

- 1 - *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,*
- 2 - *and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*
- 1 - *The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,*
- 2 - *the spirit of wisdom and understanding,*
- 1 - *the spirit of counsel and might,*
- 2 - *the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*
- 1 - *His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*
- 2 - *He shall not judge by what his eyes see,*
- 1 - *or decide by what his ears hear;*
- 2 - *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,*
- 1 - *and decide with equity for the **meek** of the earth;*
- 2 - *he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,*
- 1 - *and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*
- 2 - *Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,*
- 1 - *and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

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# Responding with Offerings

*“With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth...”* The good news according to Isaiah in which the gospel of Jesus is grounded. As you return your offering just now, continue to ponder “meekness.” What does “meek” mean to you? Who might be the best example in your experience of a “meek” person? Who are the “meek of the earth” for whom the Messiah will “*decide with equity,*” according to Isaiah? Let today’s sermon begin in your mind and heart before the preacher even opens his mouth. May it be as much a part of your offering to God as your monetary gift.

Ushers, please come forward and lead us by passing the plates.

## Offertory

# James 1:19-22 and Colossians 3:12

- 1 - Of course, we need to listen to the New Testament concerning “meekness.”
- 2 - As the sermon is based on the third beatitude of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew,
  - 1 - let’s turn to two apostolic witnesses: James and Paul.
  - 2 - First, hear the word of brother James.

(pause)

- 1 - *You must understand this, my beloved:*
- 2 - *let everyone be quick to listen,*
  - 1 - *slow to speak,*
  - 2 - *slow to anger;*
  - 1 - *for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.*
  - 2 - *Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness,*
  - 1 - *and welcome **with meekness** the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.*
  - 2 - *But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.*

(pause)

- 1 - And now a familiar verse from the apostle Paul.

(pause)

- 2 - *As God’s chosen ones,*
  - 1 - *holy and beloved,*
  - 2 - *clothe yourselves with compassion,*
  - 1 - *kindness,*
  - 2 - *humility,*
  - 1 - ***meekness,***
  - 2 - *and patience.*

←both James 1:19-22 and Colossians 3:12  
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Video Message

*“Hurry up and wait”*

# “They that wait upon the Lord”

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings of eagles.  
They shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait.

Hymn #584

text and music by Stuart Hamblen  
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## O how blessed are the poor in spirit



1. O how blessed are the poor in spir - it, theirs is the King - dom of
2. O how blessed are the meek and hum - ble, they will in - her - it the
3. O how blessed are the mer - cy giv - ers, such mer - cy they will re -
4. O how blessed are the true peace - mak - ers, they will be known as God's



Heav - en. And how blessed are the sad and mourn - ful,  
earth. And how blessed those who hun - ger for good - ness,  
ceive. And how blessed are the pure in heart,  
child - ren. And how blessed those who suf - fer for jus - tice,



they'll be con - soled by God. Blessed and hap - py  
they all will feast with God.  
they sure - ly will see God.  
they will be hon - ored by God.



we shall be. Lis - ten to the Mas - ter's word! Soon the king - dom's com - ing,



Watch and see: the king - dom of the Lord!

by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh  
© 1979 Hope Publishing Company  
CCLI# 1347096

# Benediction

We end blessed by these words  
from the pen of Menno Simons:

- 1 - We are children of God's peace in this new creation,
- 2 - spreading joy and happiness, thru God's great salvation.
- 1 - Hope we bring in spirit meek, in our daily living.
- 2 - Peace with everyone we seek, good for evil giving.
- 1 - Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, confidence will give us.
- 2 - Christ the Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

Hymn 407, verse 2 and 3b  
words by Menno Simons, 1552  
Translation by Esther Cathryn Klaassen Bergen  
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# Postlude