

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 21, 2016

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

The Second Sunday of Lent

“He will re-make these wretched bodies of ours to resemble his own glorious body, by that power of his which makes him the master of everything that is.”

(Philippians 3:21, **J.B. Phillips New Testament**)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “God is here among us” 16

Announcements

Prelude

Singing our way into worship *(see insert)*

*Entering with a Psalm *(see insert)*

*a Hymn “Unto thy temple, Lord, we come” 4

*and a Prayer

The Gospel Luke 9:28-36

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

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

Completing the Psalm *(see insert)*

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

A prayerful hymn “Be thou my vision” 545

Pastoral Prayer

From the apostle Paul Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Message “Transformational Immersion”

*Hymn “A wonderful Savior is Jesus” 598

*Benediction

*Postlude

* Rise in body or in spirit

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Last week’s testimony and sermon have been posted on our church’s *facebook* page. So will today’s message.

Church Calendar this week:

Wednesday – Quilters – 9:30am

Sunday – Morning Praise – 9:45am

Worship – 10am

Long Green Church Directory

Phone 410-592-9300

Ministers

The People of this congregation

Pastor

Pete Haynes (410-592-6343)

Secretary

Allison Funkhouser (443-840-0739)

Head Ushers

Organist

Kay Kearns

Singing our way into worship

The Lord is my Light

Psalm 27:1

music by Pauline M. Mills

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second staff has two first endings, marked '1.' and '2.'. The third staff is marked 'Fine'. The fourth staff is marked 'D.S. al Fine'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion. Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my fear, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my strength, the strength of my life, of whom, then, shall I be a - fraid? The Lord is my'.

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Arise in body or spirit, and let us enter into worship with this psalm, the first verse of which we have already sung. The words are printed on your bulletin insert. Where it says “left” or “right,” that is from your perspective – for those on the “left” side of the center aisle, and those on the “right.” My voice is the “one” and you are together as “all.”

Let us worshipfully read the first six verses of the 27th Psalm, and be drawn closer to God through them...

Entering with a Psalm

(Psalm 27:1-6)

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh - my adversaries and foes - they shall stumble and fall.

Left: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

Right: though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

Left: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

Right: to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Left: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

Right: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

One: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

All: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

a Hymn

“Unto thy temple, Lord, we come” - #4

and a Prayer

O Lord, our light and our salvation,
our shelter and our protection,
you have drawn us to this place and time.
We come, not to escape from worldly concerns,
but to seek you who created this world,
and to find in you what we need
for the facing of these days.
Forgive our fights and our flights,
how we have responded to trouble
by lashing out or by running away.
Forgive our faulty living up to your high calling,
walking away from your light,
relying on our own strength and not yours,
stumbling along the way Christ leads.
Pick us up where we fall,
enfold us in your arms,
heal our scrapes,
brush off our sin, and
nudge us back on our feet,
that we may keep on keeping on
toward your kingdom come.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Please be seated.

Luke 9:28-43

We often read the story which follows on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, when the season of Lent begins. We call it “Transfiguration Sunday,” since this is a story about Jesus being “transfigured” (that is, changed, transformed, different) on a mountain, within sight of 3 disciples. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the same story, with a few variations. According to all three accounts, this occurs after Peter’s big moment of clarity, proclaiming to Jesus, “you are the Messiah, the Christ of God.” Of course, the time had not yet come for this to be fully revealed, and Jesus instructed them all to be quiet about it, warning that there was suffering ahead, but also glory. Strangely enough, Luke omits Peter’s subsequent dark moment, when he chided Jesus, *instructing him* that God would not let this happen, to which Jesus sternly replied, “Get behind me, Satan.” ... Why Luke might have left this out is another story for another time.

I considered invited several of you, especially you children, to help me act this gospel story out. But, perhaps, it would be better to use our imagination, for the mind’s eye is a better place to envision it. We are so used to movies providing all sorts of special effects, but the truth is – God has given us the ability to imagine better than any CGI graphic. Therefore, I invite you to close your eyes and allow gospel storyteller Luke to lead us. Now, if eyes being shut moves you toward sleep, so be it. Maybe you need the rest. But I challenge you to remain awake and allow these words – which I will not rush through – to light up your imagination... Listen to the gospel...

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings
Jesus took with him Peter
and John
and James,
and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹ And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men,
Moses and Elijah,
talking to him.

³¹ They appeared in glory
and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish
at Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions
were weighed down with sleep;
but since they had stayed awake,
they saw his glory
and the two men
who stood with him.

³³ Just as they (Moses and Elijah) were leaving him,
Peter said to Jesus,
“Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three dwellings,
one for you,
one for Moses, and
one for Elijah”
—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he (Peter) was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were terrified
as they entered the cloud.

³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

³⁶ When the voice had spoken,
Jesus was found alone.

And they (Peter
and John
and James,) kept silent
and in those days told no one
any of the things
they had seen.

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

With your eyes now open, ponder this story. I’ve often wondered what really frightened Peter, James, and John on that mountain? Was it the cloud they entered which took away their sight, or did what they saw of Jesus with Moses and Elijah finally sink in? What is it about change that makes us afraid? Think about it as you respond with your tithe or other offering just now.

Ushers?

Completing the Psalm

One: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

All: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

One: Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Left: Do not hide your face from me.

Right: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Left: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Right: If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

All: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

One: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

All: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

One: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Benediction

As you go, remember:

The Lord is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?

The Lord is the strength of our life together;
of whom or of what shall we be afraid?

So step forward,
not with a spirit of cowardice,
but rather with a spirit of power
and of love
and a sound mind.