

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

March 6, 2016

Worship 10:00 am

Sunday School 11:10 am

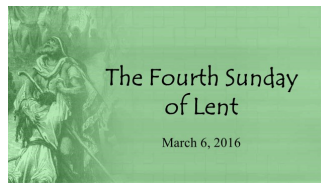
Large print hymnals are available see an usher

This room is equipped with a sound loop for the hearing impaired

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you..."

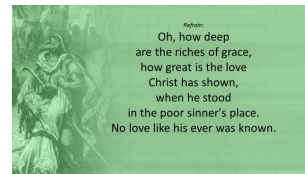
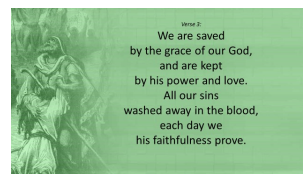
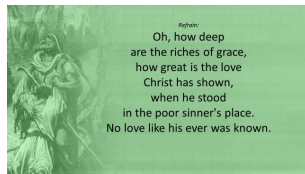
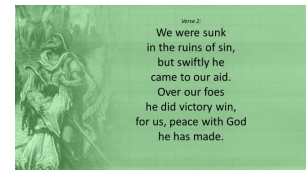
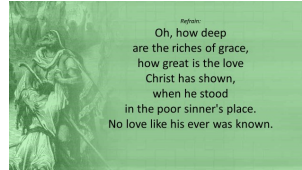
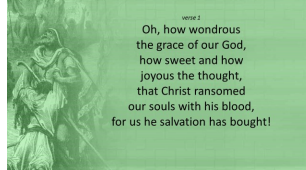
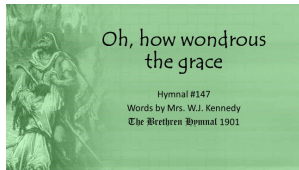
(Luke 15:18)



Beginning with Praise

“Oh, how wondrous the grace”

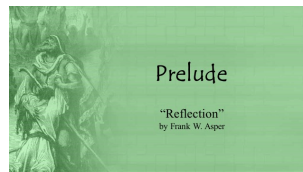
#147 (7 slides)



Announcements



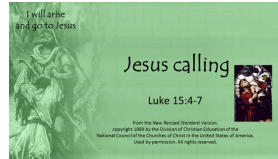
Prelude



I will arise and go to Jesus

Jesus calling

Luke 15:4-7



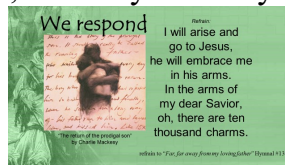
We begin worship on this fourth Sunday of Lent with two parables of Jesus, which immediately precede this morning's gospel story. Through them Jesus is calling us, inviting us to arise and come to him, and to be filled with the joy of heaven. Listen, and be ready to respond with the refrain to the hymn, "Far, far away from my loving Father."

⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

We respond

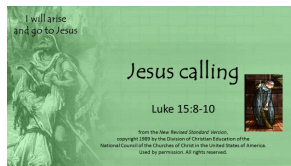
(refrain only) "Far, far away from my loving Father"

139



Jesus calling

Luke 15:8-10

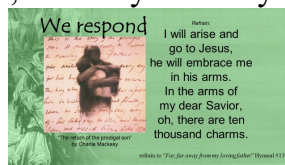


⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

We respond

(refrain only) "Far, far away from my loving Father"

139



*Opening Prayer



Rise, now, in body or spirit, and join me in prayer.

Shepherd us, O God. You who care about the lost and the least - seeking, finding, carrying them home - we cannot help but enter into your joy. You call us together. *“Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost,”* you tell us. Forgive us when we hold back and grumble our way through your grace and mercy. Keep seeking and finding us!

Clean this house, O God. You whose word is like a lamp for our feet - lighting up this place, sweeping and searching every nook and cranny - we are drawn together by your call. *“Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.”*

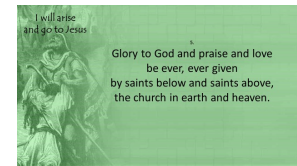
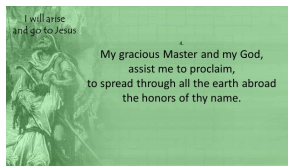
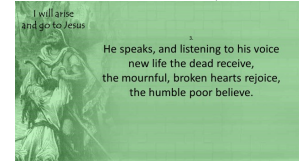
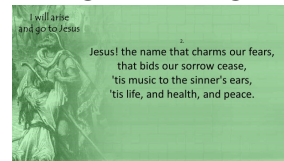
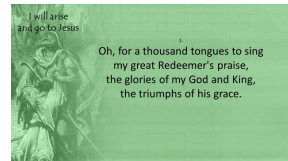
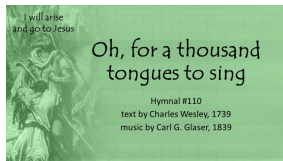
“There is more joy in heaven,” you tell us, *“there is joy in the presence of angels.”* May it overflow into this gathering, O Lord - into us. Help these tongues to sing our praise of your glory and grace. And Lord, as we sing, help us to hear your heavenly choir. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Remain standing and join in the hymn of praise,
“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing,” #110

*Praise!

“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing”

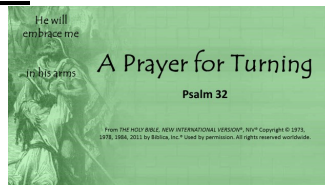
#110 (6 slides)



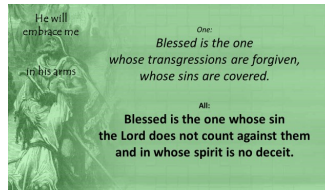
He will embrace me in his arms

A Prayer for Turning - Psalm 32

(insert)

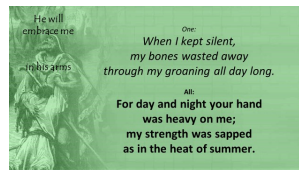


Please be seated... On your bulletin insert you will find “A Prayer for Turning.” Let us read together Psalm 32 as a confession, allowing this Bible prayer to keep turning us toward God.



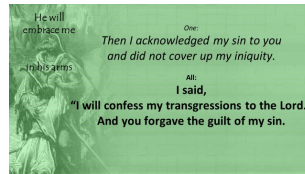
One: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

All: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.



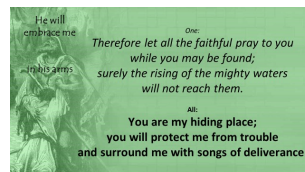
One: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

All: For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.



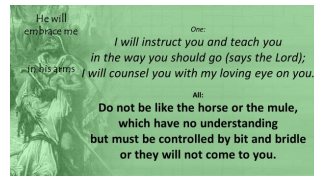
One: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

All: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.



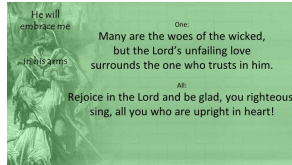
One: Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

All: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.



One: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go (says the Lord); I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

All: Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

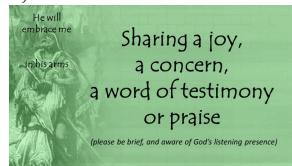


One: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

All: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

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

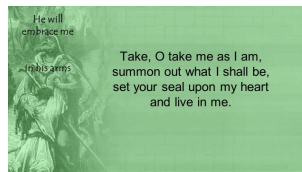
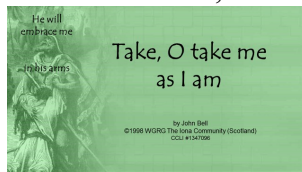
(please be brief, and aware of God's listening presence)



Song

“Take, O take me as I am”

(insert, 2 slides)

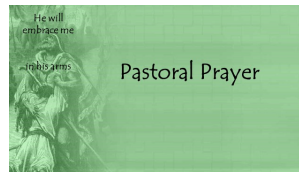


Take, O take me as I am

Sing twice in unison, then in harmony

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 Music: John L. Bell (1949-)
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Pastoral Prayer



Mercy amazing! Love unknown!

Gospel, part 1

Luke 15:1-3, 11-24



- 1 - Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:
“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father,
- 2 - ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’
- 1 - So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said,
- 2 - ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’
- 1 - So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him,
- 2 - ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
- 1 - But the father said to his slaves,
- 3 - ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’
- 1 - And they began to celebrate....

Returning our Tithes and Offerings



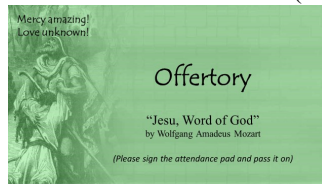
Please pray with me

Patient God, we cherish this scripture story, remembering that you are always willing to accept us, even in our bleakest moment. You surround us with the hushed silence of your love. Like a compassionate parent, you wait to receive us in your embrace while we struggle to place you first in our lives. Multiply these tithes and offerings so that they open the ears of your lost children to your message of unconditional love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Ushers?

Offertory

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)



Gospel, part 2

Luke 15:25-32



- 1 - “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied,
- 2 - ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’
- 1 - Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father,
- 4 - ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’
- 1 - Then the father said to him,
- 3 - ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Message

"I have sinned..."

***Hymn**

"Far, far away from my loving Father"

#139 (11 slides)

Far, far away from my loving father

1
Far, far away from my loving father, I had been wandering, wayward, wild, fearing only lest his anger overtake his sinful child.

2
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.

3
I will arise, though faint and weary, home to my father I will go. Woe to me that e'er I wandered, ah, that I such need should know.

4
"Father," I'll say, "I have sinned before thee, no more may I be called thy son. Make me only as thy servant, pity me, a wretch undone!"

5
Then I arose and came to my father. Mercy amazing! Love unknown! He beheld me, ran, embraced me, pardoned, welcomed, called me 'son'!

6
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.

***Responding with an affirmation**

#853

Mercy amazing!
Love unknown!

Responding with an affirmation

Hymnal #853

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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Let us respond to the gospel with an affirmation from the apostle Paul's 2 letter to the church in Corinth. Please turn to #853 in your hymnal, or pay attention to the words on the screen.

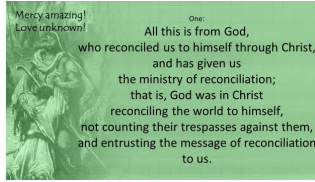
Mercy amazing!
Love unknown!

All:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

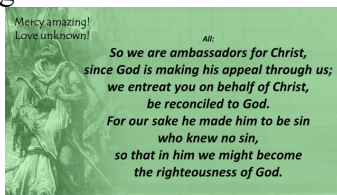
All:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



One:

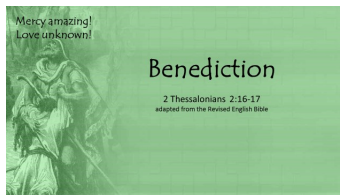
All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
that is, God was in Christ
reconciling the world to himself,
not counting their trespasses against them,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.



All:

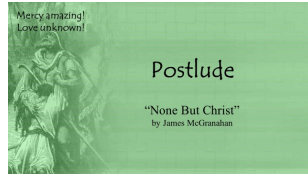
*So we are ambassadors for Christ,
since God is making his appeal through us;
we entreat you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become
the righteousness of God.*

*Benediction



May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who has shown us such love,
and in his grace has given us
such unfailing encouragement
and so sure a hope,
still encourage and strengthen you
in every good deed and word.

*Postlude



* Rise in body or in spirit
* * * * *