

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 10, 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

Third Sunday of Easter

“You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.” (Psalm 30:11-12)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “When morning gilds the sky” 644

Announcements

Prelude

*Litany of Confession and Praise *(back of bulletin)*

*Hymn “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain” 264

*Opening Prayer Sharon Kagarise

Enlarging the Scene Revelation 5:11-14

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

Hymn “Every morning is Easter morning” (insert)

Responsive Prayer 720

Scripture Acts 9:1-8

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture John 21:1-19

Message Sue Ellen Wheatley

*Hymn “Lord, you have come to the lakeshore” 229

*Benediction

*Postlude

* Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

Today’s sermon and service will be posted on www.lgvcob.org
and our church’s *facebook* page.

Litany of Confession and Praise

(adapted from Psalm 30)

One: Sing praises to the Lord, you who belong to him;
praise God's holy name.

All: *Forgive us, gracious God, when we fail to give thanks for your goodness to us.*

One: God's anger lasts for only a second, but his favor lasts a lifetime.

All: *Forgive us, gracious God, when we dwell on the present, and do not see your faithfulness across the years of our lives.*

One: When I was prosperous, I said, "Nothing can stop me now."

All: *Forgive us, gracious God, for assuming we are the makers of our lives and the masters of our destiny.*

One: Lord, your favor made me as secure as a mountain. Then you turned away, and I was shattered.

All: *Assure us, gracious God, that you never leave us nor forsake us in our time of need.*

One: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you took off my sackcloth and dressed me up in joy.

All: *Thank you, gracious God, for always working to bring life from death, and joy from sorrow.*

One: May my soul praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

All: *Let us praise you with our lips and with our lives, that the world will know how gracious, faithful, and loving you are. Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Oh God, we come to you today with our eyes opened to see your face. Our ears hear your commands as our voices sing your praise. Help us to understand what we struggle to comprehend: what it means to live life in you. May we listen to the old stories as someone who can hear for the first time again. Amen.

by Kathryn Craven, a Presbyterian minister from Wisconsin
<http://ruachwords.org/2016/03/22/third-sunday-of-easter-c-april-10-2016/>

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¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said,

“Amen!”

And the elders fell down and worshiped.^b

^a Eugene Peterson, *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*, ©1988, Harper & Row.

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

When we gather together as God's people, there is more going on than we can see. Behind our praise is the sound of angels. Within our prayers, God's Spirit breathes. As we share our burdens and our joys, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses – saints who walked the way before us, and who continue to shine as examples of faithful living. Of course, they weren't perfect - but, then again, neither are we. As God enlarges the scene of our lives, however, we discover our weeping is not the final word, and that our joy is much richer than we realize. As we share what needs to be shared just now, we seek to catch a glimpse of the bigger picture, to see our joys and concerns through heaven's eyes.

(sharing)

Hymn

“Every morning is Easter morning”
(on bulletin insert)

Every Morning is Easter Morning

Richard Avery
Don Marsh

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev - 'ry day's re - sur - rec - tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good rid - dance! Hel - lo Lord, hel - lo sun!
Dai - ly news is so bad it seems the Good News sel - dom gets heard.
Yes - ter - day I was bored and lone - ly; but to - day look and see!

I am one of the Eas - ter Peo - ple! My new life has be - gun!
Get it straight from the Eas - ter Peo - ple: God's in charge! Spread the word!
I be - long to the Eas - ter Peo - ple! Life's ex - cit - ing to me!

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Responsive Prayer

Hymnal #720

***ALL: Listening God,
you hear our prayers before we speak,
yet welcome our praying;
therefore we come with confidence
to lay our requests before you.***

Leader: We pray for Christian everywhere,
for our denomination and our congregation,
for faithfulness and strength
to persevere in righteousness.
We pray for the whole people of God.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the nations of the world,
for all leaders
and for those who make policy decisions.
We pray for the commonwealth
of our global community.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are overcome by violence,
for victims of injustice or oppression,
and for those in poverty or pain,
We pray for all who need healing and peace.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who endure trials,
for those who are dying,
and for those who mourn.
We pray for all who need comfort and hope.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You have heard the prayers
of your people, O God.
We rest in the comfort of your care,
as we pray in Jesus' name.

ALL: AMEN

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Acts 9:1-8

In the story of the early church, two key leaders arose. One of them was a Pharisee named Saul, who was not a friendly character at first. He saw the followers of Jesus as a threat, these people who claimed that a simple rabbi from Galilee had been raised from the dead. Saul made it his mission to wipe them out. The early Christians were afraid of him. However, God has a habit of enlarging the scene. In this brief episode from the ninth chapter of the book of Acts, we hear of the conversion of Saul, whom we now know as the apostle Paul. Listen.

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Of course, that’s not the end of the story. God further enlarged the scene by bringing into Saul’s world a fellow named Ananias, a man who was at first afraid of Saul. Led by a dream, however, Ananias went and laid his hands on Saul, and (as it says) “*immediately something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength*” (9:19).

The rest is history as we have received it in the Bible. Much of the New Testament is said to have been written by Paul. It all started on the road to Damascus, with the voice of Christ, a dream from God, and the willingness of someone to reach out beyond fear and feed a hungry soul.

Are you willing to reach out beyond fear and feed the hungry? ... Ushers, please come and receive our offerings.

Benediction

- 2 possibilities -

Go now and follow the risen Christ.
Love God and nourish the faith of God's little ones.
Make Christ known to all people
for God has chosen you as an instrument
to lead others into the way of mercy and love.

And may God change your anguish into a joyful dance;
May Christ Jesus lead you from betrayal to mission;
And may the Holy Spirit fill you
with light and love and purpose.

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<http://www.laughingbird.net/LectionTexts/C34.html#Benediction>

– or –

May God bless the world in which you move,
and bless your home and bless your friends.
May God bless the eyes with which you see,
and bless the ears with which you listen.
May God bless the way you use your hands,
and bless the way you employ your tongues.

from a Celtic prayer

shared by Bruce Prewer,

Uniting Church in Australia.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C30east3.htm>

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Leader: We pray for Christian everywhere,
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for faithfulness and strength
to persevere in righteousness.
We pray for the whole people of God.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the nations of the world,
for all leaders
and for those who make policy decisions.
We pray for the commonwealth
of our global community.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are overcome by violence,
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and for those who mourn.
We pray for all who need comfort and hope.

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Leader: You have heard the prayers
of your people, O God.
We rest in the comfort of your care,
as we pray in Jesus' name.

ALL: AMEN

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Acts 9:1-8

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Benediction

- 2 possibilities -

Go now and follow the risen Christ.
Love God and nourish the faith of God's little ones.
Make Christ known to all people
for God has chosen you as an instrument
to lead others into the way of mercy and love.

And may God change your anguish into a joyful dance;
May Christ Jesus lead you from betrayal to mission;
And may the Holy Spirit fill you
with light and love and purpose.

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<http://www.laughingbird.net/LectionTexts/C34.html#Benediction>

– or –

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and bless the ears with which you listen.
May God bless the way you use your hands,
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I am one of the Eas - ter Peo - ple! My new life has be - gun!
Get it straight from the Eas - ter Peo - ple: God's in charge! Spread the word!
I be - long to the Eas - ter Peo - ple! Life's ex - cit - ing to me!

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev - 'ry day's re - sur - rec - tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing. *pp* Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing.

ppp Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing, *ff* from now on!

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Responsive Prayer

Hymnal #720

***ALL: Listening God,
you hear our prayers before we speak,
yet welcome our praying;
therefore we come with confidence
to lay our requests before you.***

Leader: We pray for Christian everywhere,
for our denomination and our congregation,
for faithfulness and strength
to persevere in righteousness.
We pray for the whole people of God.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the nations of the world,
for all leaders
and for those who make policy decisions.
We pray for the commonwealth
of our global community.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are overcome by violence,
for victims of injustice or oppression,
and for those in poverty or pain,
We pray for all who need healing and peace.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who endure trials,
for those who are dying,
and for those who mourn.
We pray for all who need comfort and hope.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You have heard the prayers
of your people, O God.
We rest in the comfort of your care,
as we pray in Jesus' name.

ALL: AMEN

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Acts 9:1-8

In the story of the early church, two key leaders arose. One of them was a Pharisee named Saul, who was not a friendly character at first. He saw the followers of Jesus as a threat, these people who claimed that a simple rabbi from Galilee had been raised from the dead. Saul made it his mission to wipe them out. The early Christians were afraid of him. However, God has a habit of enlarging the scene. In this brief episode from the ninth chapter of the book of Acts, we hear of the conversion of Saul, whom we now know as the apostle Paul. Listen.

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Of course, that's not the end of the story. God further enlarged the scene by bringing into Saul's world a fellow named Ananias, a man who was at first afraid of Saul. Led by a dream, however, Ananias went and laid his hands on Saul, and (as it says) "*immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength*" (9:19).

The rest is history as we have received it in the Bible. Much of the New Testament is said to have been written by Paul. It all started on the road to Damascus, with the voice of Christ, a dream from God, and the willingness of someone to reach out beyond fear and feed a hungry soul.

Are you willing to reach out beyond fear and feed the hungry? ... Ushers, please come and receive our offerings.

Benediction

- 2 possibilities -

Go now and follow the risen Christ.
Love God and nourish the faith of God's little ones.
Make Christ known to all people
for God has chosen you as an instrument
to lead others into the way of mercy and love.

And may God change your anguish into a joyful dance;
May Christ Jesus lead you from betrayal to mission;
And may the Holy Spirit fill you
with light and love and purpose.

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<http://www.laughingbird.net/LectionTexts/C34.html#Benediction>

– or –

May God bless the world in which you move,
and bless your home and bless your friends.
May God bless the eyes with which you see,
and bless the ears with which you listen.
May God bless the way you use your hands,
and bless the way you employ your tongues.

from a Celtic prayer

shared by Bruce Prewer,

Uniting Church in Australia.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C30east3.htm>