

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

June 5, 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

*“As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said,
‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’” (1 Kings 17:11)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Oh, for a thousand tongues” 110

Announcements

Prelude “Allegro” Franck

*Call to Worship Psalm 30:1-5 (Contemporary English Version)

One: I will praise you, Lord! You saved me from the grave and kept my enemies from celebrating my death.

All: I prayed to you, Lord God, and you healed me, saving me from death and the grave.

One: Your faithful people, Lord, will praise you with songs and honor your holy name.

All: Your anger lasts a little while, but your kindness lasts for a lifetime. At night we may cry, but when morning comes we will celebrate.

*Hymn “I sing the mighty power of God” 46

*Opening Prayer (ends with Lord’s Prayer)

Gospel Luke 7:11-17

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord” Mendelssohn
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Responsive Scripture Psalm 30:6-12 (Contemporary English Version)

One: I was carefree and thought, “I’ll never be shaken!”

All: You, Lord, were my friend, and you made me strong as a mighty mountain.

One: But when you hid your face, I was crushed. I prayed to you, Lord, and in my prayer I said,

All: “What good will it do you if I am in the grave? Once I have turned to dust, how can I praise you or tell how loyal you are? Have pity, Lord! Help!”

One: You have turned my sorrow into joyful dancing. No longer am I sad and wearing sackcloth.

All: I thank you from my heart, and I will never stop singing your praises, my Lord and my God.

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

Hymn (vs. 1-3) “If you but trust in God” 576

Pastoral Prayer

Foreword 1 Kings 17:8-16

Message “Widow Dressings”

Response (vs. 4) “If you but trust in God” 576

Afterword 1 Kings 17:17-24

*Hymn “Healer of our every ill” 377

*Benediction

*Postlude “Postlude in D” von Webber

* Rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

Psalm 30:1-5

Please rise in body or spirit, and join in the
Call to Worship as printed in the bulletin.

(pause until all are ready)

*One: I will praise you, Lord! You saved me from the grave
and kept my enemies from celebrating my death.*

**All: I prayed to you, Lord God, and you healed me,
saving me from death and the grave.**

*One: Your faithful people, Lord, will praise you with
songs and honor your holy name.*

**All: Your anger lasts a little while, but your kindness
lasts for a lifetime. At night we may cry, but
when morning comes we will celebrate.**

from the *Contemporary English Version*
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Let's "sing the mighty power of God,"
#46 in your hymnal.

Opening Prayer

You we praise, Fountain of Hope:
you turn our hearts toward the outsiders in our midst,
so we can see you in them;
you take off the sunglasses of sin
we have worn for too long,
so we may see your kingdom of peace and joy.

You we praise, Friend of the poor:
when we trip over our foolish feet
in our headstrong rush to catch the world's whims,
you pick us up, bandage our scraped knees,
and put us back on the path to faithfulness.

You we praise, Spirit of blessing:
you hold the hands of the widows and orphans
as they wander the busy streets
of greed and consumption,
leading them to your compassion and grace.

You we praise, God in Community, Holy in One,
as we lift our prayer as Jesus has taught us,
Our Father . . .

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,
currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.

from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2013/06/proper-5ordinary-10pentecost-3trinity-2.html>

Luke 7:11-17

“Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” So the Psalmist prayed (30:5).

We turn to the first of two Bible stories this morning. What ties them together is that they each involve a woman living on the edge. Each has only one child, a son. There is no husband – he has died, a rough situation for a single parent in those days. In this story from Luke’s gospel, this child has become a man, able to earn a living and thus take care of his mother. The episode begins, however, with a funeral procession outside the town of Nain, and a weeping widow, grieving the loss of her only son, who was, probably, her safety net in old age. In Luke’s gospel, this story immediately follows the one we remembered last week, in which a Roman officer requested help from Jesus for his ill servant (Luke 7:1-10). Listen.

1 - *Soon afterwards Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him.*

2 - *As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out.*

1 - *He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town.*

2 - *When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her,*

1 - *“Do not weep.”*

2 - *Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said,*

1 - *“Young man, I say to you, rise!”*

2 - *The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.*

1 - *Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying,*

2 - *“A great prophet has risen among us!”*

1 - *and*

2 - *“God has looked favorably on his people!”*

1 - *This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.*

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

“Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” So the Psalmist prayed (30:5).

Joy arose in this gospel story out of the “compassion” of Jesus. Luke uses the same word to speak of the inner passion of a father to reach out to his *prodigal son* (15:20), and the guts it took for a *Good Samaritan* to cross the road and care for a stranger left to die by robbers (10:33). Contrary to what some might say, compassion is not a weakness. If anything, rather than being merely a human emotion, compassion reveals deep within us a bit of our God, who is *“merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness”* (Psalm 86:15).

“The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother” (Luke 7:15). Compassion in action... At the heart of giving lies compassion. Please pray with me.

Lord God, we are grateful for the good news of a risen Christ, who continues to dwell within us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Nourish and grow these seeds of compassion you have planted, that we may have the guts to reach out with your steadfast love and faithfulness. May these offerings reveal a bit of your mercy and graciousness within, but don't stop there. Nudge us in our everyday life to bear your morning joy with those who weep. This we pray in the name of the One who said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Amen

Ushers?

Responsive Scripture

Psalm 30:6-12

Let's complete our responsive reading (and praying) of the 30th Psalm. The words are in your bulletin.

(pause until all are ready)

One: I was carefree and thought, “I'll never be shaken!”

All: You, Lord, were my friend, and you made me strong as a mighty mountain.

One: But when you hid your face, I was crushed. I prayed to you, Lord, and in my prayer I said,

All: “What good will it do you if I am in the grave? Once I have turned to dust, how can I praise you or tell how loyal you are? Have pity, Lord! Help!”

One: You have turned my sorrow into joyful dancing. No longer am I sad and wearing sackcloth.

All: I thank you from my heart, and I will never stop singing your praises, my Lord and my God.

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1 Kings 17:8-16

N - Narrator (at lectern), L - God (in back with mic),
E - Elijah (in front right with mic), W - Widow (in front left with mic)

Our second Bible story this morning also involves a woman living on the edge. She, like the woman in Luke's gospel, is a widow with one child. However, her son is much younger, and very dependent upon her. Furthermore, she encounters the prophet Elijah, not Jesus. This is a two-part story. It begins with what we will call a "foreword," verses 8 through 16 of the 17th chapter of the first book of Kings in the Old Testament. Today's message will connect up with this part of the story. We will, following the sermon, return for an "afterword," verses 17 through 24 of the same chapter. Both take place in the middle of a great drought. There is precious little water to go around and, because of this, food is scarce. Those who have ears, listen.

(pause until all are in place)

N - ⁸ The LORD told Elijah,

L - ⁹ "Go to the town of Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I've told a widow in that town to give you food."

N - ¹⁰ When Elijah came near the town gate of Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire.

E - "Would you please bring me a cup of water?"

N - he asked. ¹¹ As she left to get it, he asked,

E - "Would you also please bring me a piece of bread?"

N - ¹² The widow answered,

W - "In the name of the living LORD your God, I swear that I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil. I'm on my way home now with these few sticks to cook what I have for my son and me. After that, we will starve to death."

N - ¹³ Elijah said,

E - "Everything will be fine. Do what you said. Go home and fix something for you and your son. But first, please make a small piece of bread and bring it to me. ¹⁴ The LORD God of Israel has promised that your jar of flour won't run out and your bottle of oil won't dry up before he sends rain for the crops."

N - ¹⁵ The widow went home and did exactly what Elijah had told her. She and Elijah and her family had enough food for a long time. ¹⁶ The LORD kept the promise that his prophet Elijah had made, and she did not run out of flour or oil.

Message - "*Widow Dressings*"

Afterword

1 Kings 17:17-24

N - Narrator (at lectern),
E - Elijah (in front right with mic),
W - Widow (in front left with mic)

*(After message, while congregation sings vs. 4
of "If you but trust in God" (#576), get in place.)*

N - ¹⁷ Several days later, the son of the woman who owned the house got sick, and he kept getting worse, until finally he died. ¹⁸ The woman shouted at Elijah,

W - "What have I done to you? I thought you were God's prophet. Did you come here to cause the death of my son as a reminder that I've sinned against God?"

E - ¹⁹ "Bring me your son,"

N - Elijah said. Then he took the boy from her arms and carried him upstairs to the room where he was staying. Elijah laid the boy on his bed ²⁰ and prayed,

E - "LORD God, why did you do such a terrible thing to this woman? She's letting me stay here, and now you've let her son die."

N - ²¹ Elijah stretched himself out over the boy three times, while praying,

E - "LORD God, bring this boy back to life!"

N - ²² The LORD answered Elijah's prayer, and the boy started breathing again. ²³ Elijah picked him up and carried him downstairs. He gave the boy to his mother and said,

E - "Look, your son is alive."

W - ²⁴ "You are God's prophet!"

N - the woman replied.

W - "Now I know that you really do speak for the LORD."

(pause momentarily to indicate scripture reading has ended)

N - There is more to the story of Elijah, but this is the last we hear of the widow of Zarephath and her son in the book of Kings. No doubt, there is more that could have been written, for this mother and son story continued on, just not in our hearing. It is appropriate, however, that we end with a resurrection story. Please rise in body or spirit and turn to #377 in your hymnal, that we might sing to the "Healer of our every ill."

Benediction

By the example of a nameless widow,
put what you have into the needs of today,
and discover you have more than enough.

In following Christ,
step out by faith
and discover God's compassion growing in you.

With the Holy Spirit
spread your wings
and discover what power really is.

Remember: *The Lord is God*
(which is what the name "Elijah" means)
*"Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning."*

Go.