

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

June 12, 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

“This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little.” (Luke 7:47)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Morning has broken” 648

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

*Hymn “Here in this place” 6

*Opening Prayer

A Story of Naboth’s Vineyard 1 Kings 21:1-29

Confession Time 698

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

Hymn “My Jesus, I love thee” 522

Pastoral Prayer

We are saved by Faith Galatians 2:15-21

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

A Supper Story of Jesus Luke 7:36 - 8:3

Message “*until the jar is broken*”

*Hymn “Wonderful grace of Jesus” 150

*Benediction

*Postlude

* Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

Call to Worship

We gather here,
not to establish our credentials
but to learn our needs,
not to justify ourselves
but to admit we are sorry,
not to cling to the familiar
but to risk the unfamiliar,
not to seek respite from reality
but to meet pure Reality,
not to enjoy our own decency
but to worship a holy God,
not to practice positive thinking
but to be caught up in God's joy.

Amen? *Amen!*

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<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C40sun11.htm>

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we are glad that you have drawn us together again. We come as a motley people from a motley world, seeking that abundant love which does not count our follies or number our sins. Help us to delight in your free grace more than birds love the air and fish love the sea. Give us an eager desire to worship you wholeheartedly, and to serve you without conditions or selfish expectations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

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A Story of Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-29

In the town of Jezreel,
a man named Naboth owned a vineyard
next to the palace of King Ahab.
The king told Naboth he wanted to buy the vineyard
and make it into a vegetable garden.
He said, "I'll pay you full value in silver,
or if you prefer,
I'll give you a better vineyard someplace else."
Naboth said, "No. I couldn't sell this vineyard.
It has been owned by our family
for several hundred years."

At first, this made the king angry.
He went home and refused to eat anything.
Finally he became depressed
and went and lay in his bed facing the wall.

Jezebel, the king's wife, asked him what was wrong.
He said, "I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard
and he told me no!
I even offered him a better vineyard
in exchange for his."
Jezebel said, "Oh, is that all?
Well, come have something to eat,
and don't worry
about Naboth's vineyard.
I'll get it for you."

She wrote a letter to the town officials.
It said, "Go get Naboth and have him stand before you.
Bring in two liars that will swear
he cursed God and the king.
Then take him out
and stone him until he's dead."
She signed Ahab's name to the letter
and sealed it with the official seal.

The city leaders did exactly as they were told.
They got Naboth and condemned him to death.
After the stoning,
they sent a message back to Jezebel saying,
"Naboth is dead."

She went to her husband and said,
"You now own the vineyard you wanted.
Go and enjoy it because Naboth is dead."
When the king heard this good news,
he went to see his vineyard.

At that same moment, the Lord said to Elijah,
"King Ahab just stole Naboth's vineyard.
Go tell him this.
'You murdered Naboth
and the dogs licked his blood from the ground.
Dogs will lick your blood at that exact spot.' "

Elijah went and found Ahab at Naboth's vineyard.
When the king saw the prophet coming, he said,
 "Well, look at this. My enemy has found me."
"Yes, I found you.
 And you have found every way possible
 to do the things God hates.
 Now it's time for judgment.
Your punishment will be just like King Jeroboam.
You'll have no descendants.
 First, dogs will eat the body
 of your wife Jezebel.
After that, your entire family
 will be eliminated from the earth.
Dogs will eat all your relatives
 that die in the city.
Birds will eat those
 who die in the country."

This struck Ahab in the heart.
 He ripped his clothes in sorrow.
 He fasted and wore sackcloth day and night.
Finally, the Lord said to Elijah,
 "Ahab is truly sorry for what he did.
 Therefore, I won't destroy his family
 until after he's dead.
 All that I said will happen
 when his son is king."

paraphrased in story format by John Walsh
<http://www.btstories.com/naboths-vineyard/>
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Confession Time

Let's follow up this story from the Bible with some confession. The words are found in #698 in the back of your hymnal. They will also be on the screen above. Let's acknowledge our sins. Let God's forgiveness overflow.

Forgive me my sins, O Lord.
Forgive me the sins of my youth
 and the sins of my age,
the sins of my soul
 and the sins of my body,
my secret and my whispering sins,
the sins I have done to please myself
 and the sins I have done to please others.
Forgive those sins which I know
 and the sins which I do not know
Forgive them, Lord;
 forgive them in all your great goodness,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

Hymnal #698
by Lancelot Andrewes, ca. 1600
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(Joys and Concerns)

Galatians 2:15-21

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over “non-Jewish sinners.” We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren’t perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was “trying to be good,” I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan.

¹⁹⁻²¹ What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn’t work. So I quit being a “law man” so that I could be *God’s* man. Christ’s life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I am not going to go back on that.

Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God’s grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

from *The Message*
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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Pray with me:

And so we come to this time of giving, O Lord. What we are about to place in these plates is not intended to make an impression upon anyone, most of all, upon you. We’re not trying to build a glory barn with our cash so that you might be impressed and see us in a different light and thus be kind and generous to us. The truth is, you already see us in a new way. Jesus did the leg work on that. We’re living on the other side of the cross that stands before us. If anything, that cross is within us, Christ’s sacrificial death something that lives in and through us as daily we die and rise again. Whatever it is that we have to give overflows from what you have already given. For this we are immensely thankful. May our gratitude, not our obligation, add to your joy, O Living God. Amen.

(reused from 6/13/2010)

Ushers?

A Supper Story of Jesus
Luke 7:36 – 8:3

³⁶ And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. ³⁷ And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment...

(forward to video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii5wfxCgeK4>

⁴⁹ And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?...

^{8:1} And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, ² And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, ³ And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

from the *King James Version*
(altered to fit with video)
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Benediction

As you move on from this time and place
and head out into the world of this week,
may God's Holy Spirit empower you
to live gladly and not behave badly.
This may involve a bit of brokenness on your part,
opening up your life
to the transforming power of God.
Amen! So be it!

At the end of the day,
may you hear Jesus say:
"Your faith has saved you.
Go in peace."

(adapted from 6/16/2013)