

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

June 26, 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

“You have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other.”
(Galatians 5:13 from the *Living Bible*)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Holy Spirit, come with power” 26

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship Psalm 16 (from *Today’s English Version*)
(when prompted, say:) **“I am your disciple.”**

*Hymn “Be Thou my vision” 545

*Opening Prayer

The Gospel Journey Luke 9:51-62

Hymn (vs. 1-2) “We plow the fields and scatter” 96

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

*Response (vs. 3) “We plow the fields and scatter” 96

*Dedication Prayer

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

Hymn “Spirit of the living God” 349

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Response “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy” (insert)

Message “*With faces set toward Jerusalem*”

*Hymn “Thou true Vine, that heals” 373

*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.

Call to Worship

Psalm 16 (from *Today's English Version*)

One: Protect me, O God; I trust in you for safety.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
all the good things I have come from you."

All: I am your disciple.

One: How excellent are the Lord's faithful people!
My greatest pleasure is to be with them.

All: I am your disciple.

One: Those who rush to other gods
bring many troubles on themselves.
I will not take part in their sacrifices;
I will not worship their gods.

All: I am your disciple.

One: You, Lord, are all I have,
and you give me all I need;
my future is in your hands.
How wonderful are your gifts to me;
how good they are!

One: I praise the Lord, because he guides me,
and in the night my conscience warns me.
I am always aware of the Lord's presence;
he is near, and nothing can shake me.

All: I am your disciple.

One: And so I am thankful and glad,
and I feel completely secure,
because you protect me from the
power of death.

I have served you faithfully,
and you will not abandon me to
the world of the dead.

You will show me the path that leads to life;
your presence fills me with joy
and brings me pleasure for ever.

All: I am your disciple.

Good News Translation (GNT, aka TEV)
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as suggested in Carolyn C. Brown in her blog:

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/05/year-c-proper-8-13th-sunday-in-ordinary.html>

Opening Prayer

Be thou our vision this morning, O Lord of our hearts. Through song and Word, focus us upon your eternal realm, O High King of heaven. In our sharing and our praying, train our hearts to beat with the rhythm of your own, Great Father in us dwelling. Help us to set our faces toward where you are leading, and give us the courage to follow you by faith, O Power of our power. And when we falter, whatever befall, pick us up and still be our vision, O Ruler of all. AMEN

Please be seated.

The Gospel Journey
Luke 9:51-62

In Luke's gospel, this morning's reading marks a change. The previous six chapters (4:14-9:50) tell of the ministry of Jesus in the region of Galilee. From synagogue to synagogue he teaches and preaches. From town to town he heals the sick. Along the way he gathers disciples. A grass roots Galilean movement grows around this rabbi from Nazareth.

Earlier in chapter 9, Jesus feeds 5,000 with but a few loaves and fishes (9:10-17). Peter "sort of" figures out that Jesus is the Messiah, and says so, though Jesus warns him to be quiet about this, for dark days lie ahead (9:18-27). There is a bright moment when Peter, James, and John see him transfigured with Moses and Elijah on a mountain, but it is only a fleeting glimpse (9:28-36). He heals a boy troubled by an unclean spirit, and people are astounded by God's greatness (9:37-45). However, Jesus quickly clarifies that "the least among you is the greatest," with a child by his side (9:46-48).

And then, immediately before our morning's reading, the disciple named John speaks up that someone not in their circle was casting out demons in Jesus' name. "Should we stop him," John asks. "No," replies Jesus, "whoever is not against you is for you" (9:49-50). Thus we come to a pivotal moment in Luke's gospel when Jesus shifts from what he has been doing in Galilee, and turns in a new direction. It is like a destination is typed into a good news GPS. No more messing around in familiar territory among people like "us." In this passage Jesus and his

disciples are headed on a journey now toward his destiny. Though there are many twists and turns along the way, the road leads toward ... Jerusalem."

(put a "Jerusalem" sign around neck, and read while walking through congregation, stopping at different persons, speaking as if they were the ones asking the questions)

⁵¹ When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "**Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?**" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village....

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "**I will follow you wherever you go.**" ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "***Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.***"

⁵⁹ To another he said, "***Follow me.***" But he said, "**Lord, first let me go and bury my father.**" ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "***Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.***"

⁶¹ Another said, "**I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.**" ⁶² Jesus said to him, "***No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.***"

96 We plow the fields and scatter

WIR PFLÜGEN 76. 76D with refrain

1 We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on-ly are the Mak-er of all things near and far.
 3 We thank you, then, Cre-a-tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa-tered by God's al-might-y hand.
 You paint the way-side flow-er, you light the eve-ning star.
 the seed-time and the har-vest, our life, our health, our food.

God sends the snow in win-ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o-bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 Ac-cept the gifts we of-fer, for all your love im-parts,

the breez-es and the sun-shine, and soft re-fresh-ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil-dren, you give our dai-ly bread.
 and what you most would wel-come, our hum-ble, thank-ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, *Wir pflügen und wir streuen*, *Fest*, 1782; tr. Jane M. Campbell, *Garland of Song*, 1861
 Music: attributed to Johann A. P. Schulz, *Lieder für Volksschulen mit Musik*, 1800

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

As you return your offering just now, think over this past week. Did Jesus call you to follow him at any point? Maybe not out loud, but in some way that your conscience got tweaked. Perhaps it was in an interaction with a co-worker or neighbor, when your mind or body pulled in one direction and God pulled in another. An inner voice could have nudged you to reach deeper, to move beyond surface talk about the weather or politics. Something may have told you to really connect with this person, which possibly they – and you – needed. Were there any such “Jesus calling” moments this week? If so, ponder how you responded. Talk to God about it as the plates are passed. Then we’ll stand and sing a verse, and pray together – dedicating not only the offering, but also this week, to the One who calls, “follow me.” ...Ushers?

*(Offertory, then *Response – vs. 3 from #96, then:)*

Dedication Prayer

Everlasting God, you never ask us to wait when we cry out in despair. You are ever-present. You provide counsel in our bleakest moments. You share joy in our celebratory times. We confess that sometimes we are reluctant in our relationship with you. We do not desire to be the “would-be” followers of Jesus, like Luke describes. Help us to be committed totally to you in the days ahead. We rededicate ourselves to you and share a portion of our financial earnings with you. We pray in Jesus’ name.

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Galatians 5:1, 13-25

(Before the service begins, give this sheet to 9 persons scattered throughout the sanctuary. They are to follow along, and at the right moment speak their highlighted word loudly – with almost a yell so all can plainly hear. In so doing they indicate that this fruit of the Spirit grows out of the soil of the congregation.)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is

love,
joy,

peace,
patience,
kindness,
generosity,
faithfulness,
²³ gentleness,
and self-control.

There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart
down in my heart. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to
stay. And I'm so hap-py, so ver-y hap-py, I've got the love of Je-sus in my
heart. And I'm so hap-py, so ver-y hap-py, I've got the love of Je-sus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus (3x) down in my heart...
I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart...
I've got the patient, gentle kindness of the Lord in my heart...
I've got God's gen-erous, faith-ful, will-ful nature down in my heart...
And if the devil doesn't like he can sit on a tack...

words and music by George Willis Cooke (1848-1923)
and others
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Benediction

Go now, with your face set in the direction
in which God is sending you.

Don't get distracted along the way.

Just live by the Spirit.

Use your freedom to grow God's fruit within
which nourishes those around you.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be blessed.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you always.

Amen.