

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 17, 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

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
(Hebrews 13:2)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Jesus, stand among us” (sing 3x) 25

Announcements

Prelude *Voluntary from* “Incline Thine Ear” Himmel

A Psalm (#15) to ground us

One: LORD, who is welcome at your table? Who can stay in the place you call your own?

All: You have given us the answer, LORD.

Left: It is those who walk with integrity and do the right thing;

Right: those who speak the honest truth and do not use their words to wound;

Left: those who do not exploit their friends or put down their neighbors.

Right: It is those who hate corruption and look up to those who honor you, LORD;

Left: those who give their word and stand by it even if it costs them;

Right: those who lend freely, without seeking a profit, and cannot be bribed into shafting the innocent.

All: You honor such people, LORD, and anchor them on unshakable ground.

Laughing Bird version, ©2001 Nathan Nettleton

Invitation to Worship

Janet Bowman

*Hymn “When morning gilds the skies” 644

*Opening Prayer

Scripture in Song “When we see the Son” (insert)
and in Word Colossians 1:21-28 from *The Message*

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

Quiet Song “Teresa’s Prayer” (insert)

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Luke 10:38-42 from the *NIV*

Annual Conference Moment

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Andate” Kullak
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture Genesis 18:1-15 from the *NRSV*

Message “*Welcoming angels unaware*”

*Hymn “Oh, how shall I receive thee” 182

*Benediction

*Postlude “Allegro Moderato” DeMonti

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

A Psalm to ground us

We begin today's worship by grounding ourselves in Psalm 15. We will use a paraphrase of it known as the "Laughing Bird" version, from "down under" in Australia. Please note that for this reading, we'll divide our congregation down the center aisle, with those on your (not my) left reading some portions, and those on your (not my) right reading other portions. The words are both in your bulletin and on screen. I will begin...

One:

LORD, who is welcome at your table?
Who can stay in the place you call your own?

All:

You have given us the answer, LORD.

Left:

It is those who walk with integrity and do the right thing;

Right:

*those who speak the honest truth
and do not use their words to wound;*

Left:

those who do not exploit their friends
or put down their neighbors.

Right:

*It is those who hate corruption
and look up to those who honor you, LORD;*

Left:

those who give their word
and stand by it even if it costs them;

Right:

*those who lend freely, without seeking a profit,
and cannot be bribed into shafting the innocent.*

All:

**You honor such people, LORD,
and anchor them on unshakable ground.**

Psalm 15 from the *Laughing Bird* version
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Invitation to Worship

The word "humble" comes from the word "humus," which means "soil, earth, ground." ... We have not come to this time and place because we have done everything right in the eyes of God. The Lord knows we have struggled with integrity and honesty, and have faltered in our treatment of others. This, however, is our common ground, and we humbly aim toward the ideals we have just spoken. Jesus has led us here, and standing with our feet planted in this soil, we look up on this resurrection day. Our hearts are awakened by the Holy Spirit.

Come, rise in body or spirit, and let us sing,
"When morning gilds the skies," #644 in your hymnal.
The words are also on the screen.

Opening Prayer

O God, Author of eternal light, lead us in our worshiping this day; that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, our meditations may glorify you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*adapted from Sacrum Breviary, 11th Century
p. 86, For All Who Minister, Brethren Press, 1993*

Scripture in Song



In the first chapter of Paul's letter to the believers in Collosae, he makes use of what many scholars believe is a song Christians were singing in those early years of the church. It would be a bit like beginning a letter with the words to "When morning gilds the skies." Those listening to it being read might start humming the tune and nodding their heads, "yes, may Jesus Christ be praised."

Only the words to this song have been preserved by Paul. We don't have the music. A number of years ago,



Pastor Pete came up with his own tune, and arranged the words to fit it. Please understand, music was very different 2,000 years ago. It might sound very strange to our ears today. As Pete sings his more modern rendition, you are welcome to sing along as you catch the tune, or just listen. The words and music are on your bulletin insert. The words only will be projected upon the screen, verses 15-20 of Colossians. After he is done, I'll continue with verses 21-28.

(get slide changer from Pete)

When we see the Son

Behold, when we see the Son,
we have seen the unseen God.
This One came before all things,
born before the world began.

slide 1

For in Him, all things were created,
what we see and what we cannot grasp.
Ev'ry pow'r or ruler in existence
owes its life and ev'rything to Him...
through the Son for this One.

slide 2

He holds this fragmented world
in a blessed unity.
And we, who are called His church,
claim Him as our living head.

slide 3

For in Him, ev'rything that God is,
finds a home, a pleasing place to dwell.
And through Him God is reconciling
all the world, by shedding His own blood...
on a cross, not a loss.

slide 4

For He, though he died for us,
is the first to rise again.
Behold, when we see the Son,
there we see the living God.

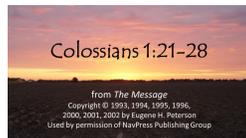
slide 5

Colossians 1:15-20
an early Christian hymn
paraphrase & music ©2001 Peter L Haynes

(change to next slide before reading. Pete will get while your read)

Scripture in Word

Colossians 1:21-28



²¹⁻²³ You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

²⁴⁻²⁵ I want you to know how glad I am that it's me sitting here in this jail and not you. There's a lot of suffering to be entered into in this world—the kind of suffering Christ takes on. I welcome the chance to take my share in the church's part of that suffering. When I became a servant in this church, I experienced this suffering as a sheer gift, God's way of helping me serve you, laying out the whole truth.

²⁶⁻²⁸ This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background,

regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. We preach *Christ*, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less.

from *The Message*
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Sharing a joy, a concern,
a word of testimony or praise

Quiet Song
“Teresa's Prayer”

Pastoral Prayer

TERESA'S PRAYER

St. Teresa of Avila



Christ be in my mind and in my think - ing,



Christ be in my eyes, in ev' - ry - thing I see,



Christ be in my ears and in my hear - ing,



Christ be in my mouth, in ev' - ry word I speak,



Christ be in my heart and in my lov - ing,



Christ be in my life, each mo - ment that I live.

Text: St. Teresa of Avila
 Music: Joseph Helfrich
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When we see the Son

(Colossians 1:15-20 - an early Christian hymn)



Be - hold, when we see the Son, we have seen the un - seen
 holds this frag - ment - ted world in a bless - ed un - i -
 He, tho' He died for us, is the first to rise a -



God. This One came be fore all things, born be - fore the world be -
 ty. And we, who are call'd His church, claim Him as our liv - ing
 gain. Be - hold, when we see the Son,



gan. For in Him, all things were cre - a - ted, what we
 head. For in Him, ev' - ry - thing that God is finds a



see and what we can - not grasp. Ev - 'ry pow'r or rul - er in ex -
 home, a pleas - ing place to dwell. And thru' Him God is rec - on -



is - tence owes its life and ev - 'ry - thing to Him... thru' the
 cil - ing all the world, by shed - ding His own blood... on a



Son cross, for this One. He there we see the liv - ing God.
 not a loss. For

© 2001, Peter L. Haynes

Luke 10:38-42

Our Gospel story for today opens up the theme of hospitality that runs through this service of worship. For some of us, it is a very familiar scripture. It takes place in the home of two sisters. Elsewhere in the Bible, we learn that they – along with their brother, Lazarus - have become close friends of Jesus. Theirs was like a second home to our Lord, so warm was their welcome.

In this scripture, however, we find two very different ways of welcoming. It is important that we not say that one is better than the other. Jesus did not berate either sister. He only challenged one of them not to take away the gift of the other. He also encouraged the first sister to focus upon, and find joy in, her own gift. Listen...

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

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Annual Conference Moment

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Let us pray,

Living God, we invite you into our minds and hearts in this hushed moment of praise and thanksgiving. We listen for your invitation to forget our daily stress and to unwind in your embrace. You enfold us in your peace extending beyond needless worries and everyday troubles. We worship you with these gifts and with spirits renewed by your grace. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, whose message transcends time. Amen.

Ushers, please come forward
and receive our tithes and offerings.

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Benediction

As you head forth from this time and place,
Trust in the steadfast love of God.
Give thanks as you go.
Don't be worried or distracted,
nor shift from the hope promised in the gospel,
Welcome strangers along the way.
Remember, in so doing,
some have entertained angels unknowingly.

May God establish you securely in the faith;
May Christ Jesus make you holy
and blameless before God;
And may the Holy Spirit raise you to maturity in Christ.

adapted from a benediction

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<http://www.laughingbird.net/LectureTexts/CP11.html#Benediction>