

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

August 21, 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

*“The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” (Isaiah 58:11)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “Come, gracious Spirit”                      303

Announcements

Prelude

Psalm 103:1-8

\*Call to Worship    (back of bulletin)

\*Hymn                      “O bless the Lord, my soul”    600

\*Opening Prayer    Meghan Knight

Gospel Story                      Luke 13:10-17                      (*Contemporary English Version*)

Unison Confession

Whether we are bent out of shape by some crippling disease, or through our own judgmental attitudes, O Lord, we need your healing touch. Place your hands upon our pain, that it might be transformed into praise. Forgive our words and deeds which hurt others, and also cripple us. Straighten us up, that we might walk together in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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

Hymn                      “Come, gracious Spirit”    303

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture                      Hebrews 12:18-29

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Scripture                      Isaiah 58:9b-14                      (from *The Message*)

Message                      *“Like a watered garden”*

\*Hymn                      “Dear Lord and Father of mankind”    523

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

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

Today’s sermon and service will be posted on [www.lgvcob.org](http://www.lgvcob.org) and our church’s *facebook* page.

**Church Calendar this week:**

Wednesday – Quilters – 9:30am

Sunday – Morning Praise – 9:45am

Worship – 10am

**Long Green Church Directory**

**Phone 410-592-9300**

Ministers

The People of this congregation

Pastor

Pete Haynes (410-592-6343)

Secretary

Allison Funkhouser (443-840-0739)

Head Ushers

Organist

Kay Kearns

# Psalm 103:1-8

Voices 1 & 2 begin in the back, on each side of the congregation. They read dialogically as they walk to the front.

- 1 - *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*
- 2 - *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—*
- 1 - *who forgives all your iniquity,*
- 2 - *who heals all your diseases,*
- 1 - *who redeems your life from the Pit,*
- 2 - *who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*
- 1 - *who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
- 2 - *The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.*
- 1 - *He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.*
- 2 - *The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

(pause as #1 goes to the lectern, and #2 heads to his seat)

- 1 - Rise now in body or spirit and join in the Call to Worship printed on the back of your bulletin.

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# Call to Worship

**Leader:** We come to worship the Lord in his goodness and grace.

**People:** *Bless the Lord.*

**Leader:** We come gathered as one people, united in the love of God.

**People:** *Bless the Lord all my soul.*

**Leader:** We come with open hearts and open minds, ready to receive God's Word.

**People:** *Bless the Lord all my soul, and all that is within me.*

**Leader:** We come seeking the presence of the Lord, for he satisfies our every need.

**People:** *Bless the Lord all my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.*

by Darren Howdyshell, pastor  
Moscow Church of the Brethren  
Mount Solon, Virginia  
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# Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, We give thanks to you for your love. As Psalm 103 says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Come to us now as we prepare for worship and place your hand on our hearts. Help us to praise you with all that is within us. Guide us as we sing praise to you and glorify your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*written by Meghan Knight*

## Luke 13:10-17

*[Two persons, a man and a woman, stand eight feet apart in the center of the chancel. Each should, ahead of time, imagine what it would feel and look like to suffer from a crippling disease (arthritis, osteoporosis, etc.) that warps the shape of their bodies, painfully bending them over.]*

*During the course of the following reading (read slowly and deliberately, pausing where appropriate), each will take on that form. In the acting out of this scripture, Jesus is an unseen presence.]*

One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in a Jewish meeting place, and a woman

*[she begins taking on this form]*

was there who had been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. She was completely bent over and could not straighten up. When Jesus saw the woman, he called her over

*[she looks up and takes a few steps toward the center]*

and said, "You are now well." He placed his hands on her, and right away she stood up straight and praised God.

*[a marked transformation takes place, and she stands tall and straight and without pain]*

The man in charge of the meeting place

*[he begins to take on the form of a bent over cripple, with a painful scowl on his face]*

was angry because Jesus had healed someone on the Sabbath. So he said to the people, "Each week has six days when we can work. Come and be healed on one of those days, but not on the Sabbath."

*[he remains in this form]*

The Lord replied, "Are you trying to fool someone? Won't any one of you untie your ox or donkey and lead it out to drink on a Sabbath? This woman belongs to the family of Abraham, but Satan has kept her bound for eighteen years. Isn't it right to set her free on the Sabbath?" Jesus' words made his enemies ashamed. But everyone else in the crowd was happy about the wonderful things he was doing.

*[After a few moments of silence, the woman goes over to the man, and slowly helps him to straighten up and stand.]*

*Then they embrace & remain up front through the Unison Confession.]*

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## Unison Confession

Worship Leader: Let us respond to this Gospel with the Unison Confession printed in the bulletin.

Whether we are bent out of shape by some crippling disease, or through our own judgmental attitudes, O Lord, we need your healing touch. Place your hands upon our pain, that it might be transformed into praise. Forgive our words and deeds which hurt others, and also cripple us. Straighten us up, that we might walk together in Jesus' name. Amen.

*[The man and woman then walk together back to their seats.]*

# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Lord, thank you for being our “consuming fire.” Thank you for all the ways you have blessed us. As we return these gifts just now, help us to remember the reason we give. We give because it is pleasing to you. Continue to be with us through worship, and guide us as we return our offerings to you. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Ushers?

*written by Meghan Knight*

# Isaiah 58:9b-14

The 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah deals with worship. The first 8 verses focus upon the spiritual practice of fasting. The rest of the chapter widens the picture to include all of the ways God’s people come before the Lord with reverence and devotion, focusing at the end upon the practice of Sabbath. A thread woven through it all is “justice.” Worshiping God is worthless if we don’t treat each other with respect, if we don’t take care of the least and the Lost. Jesus echoed this concern.

Many scholars believe these words were aimed at the Jewish community which had returned from exile and were rebuilding Jerusalem, physically & spiritually. Their religious leaders spoke heavily about correct theology and proper worship, but were missing the boat when it came to practicing justice. How can there truly be Sabbath rest, the prophet says, if you haven’t loved the Lord with heart, soul, and mind, **and your neighbor as yourself?**... Listen to God speak through the prophet Isaiah.

- 1 - “If you get rid of unfair practices,
- 2 - and quit blaming victims,
- 1 - and quit gossiping about other people’s sins,
- 2 - If you are generous with the hungry
- 1 - and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
- 2 - Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
- 1 - your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.
- 2 - I will always show you where to go.

- 1 - I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
- 2 - firm muscles,
- 1 - strong bones.
- 2 - You'll be like a well-watered garden,
- 1 - a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
- 2 - You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
- 1 - you'll rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
- 2 - You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
- 1 - you'll restore old ruins,
- 2 - you'll rebuild and renovate,
- 1 - you'll make the community livable again.
- 2 - If you watch your step on the Sabbath
- 1 - and don't use my holy day for personal advantage,
- 2 - If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy,
- 1 - live out God's holy day as a celebration,
- 2 - If you honor it by refusing 'business as usual,'
- 1 - making money,
- 2 - running here and there—
- 1 - Then you'll be free to enjoy God!
- 2 - Oh, I'll make you ride high and soar above it all.
- 1 - I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.”
- 2 - Yes! God says so!

## Benediction

May God, who himself  
 rested on the seventh day of Creation,  
 provide you rest on this day,  
 and bless you and keep you this week.

May God make his face to shine upon you  
 and be gracious unto you  
 and give you peace  
 so that you might spread this Sabbath,  
 that your garden might grow  
 in Christ. Amen