

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

September 11, 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

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Marvelous grace...” 151

Announcements

Prelude *(use this time of preparation to read and pray the back of your bulletin.)*

*Call to Worship

The foolish say, ‘there is no God.’

**We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice,
the presence of the God who loves us.**

The scoffers of our age ask, ‘why do you seek after God?’

**We come, in this time, because God's grace
has spilled over in our lives.**

The hopeless around us think, ‘no one cares about me.’

**We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus
has found us and brought us home.**

*Hymn “Praise him, praise him!” 100

*Opening Prayer (ends with Lord’s Prayer)

Good News 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (from *The Message*, adapted)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

*Prayer of Confession and Call to Repentance

*Responsive Assurance of Forgiveness 706

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

Hymn “Savior, like a shepherd lead us” 355

Pastoral Prayer

More Good News Luke 15:1-10

Message *“Joy in the presence”*

*Hymn “Come, we that love the Lord” 14

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

Call to Worship

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**We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus
has found us and brought us home.**

Remain standing and let us sing,
"Praise him, praise him!"
#100 in your hymnal.

Opening Prayer

When we are short-sighted
and think we can't see you,
you show us a mother
cradling her sick child.

When we are anxious,
certain you don't care about us,
you are confident enough
to trust us with your grace.

When we are cynical,
sure that nothing matters,
you are optimistic enough
to become one of us.

God, you are our Hope.

You sweep the streets
of the world,
to uncover the people
we consider to be trash.

You shine your grace
into sin's shadows
to find us when
we have lost our way.

You would leave us
to go find the sister
we left behind.
Jesus, you are our Joy.

When we walk
the dusty desert of desolation,
you refresh us
with showers of grace.

When our lives
lie in ruined rubble,
you come and build
a foundation for us
out of love and faith.

Spirit, you are our Life.

God in Community, Holy in One,
our Hope, our Joy, our Life,
hear us as we pray as Jesus teaches,
Our Father . . .

Call & Prayer written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,
currently interim Pastor at

Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2013/09/proper-19ordinary-24pentecost-17trinity.html>

Good News

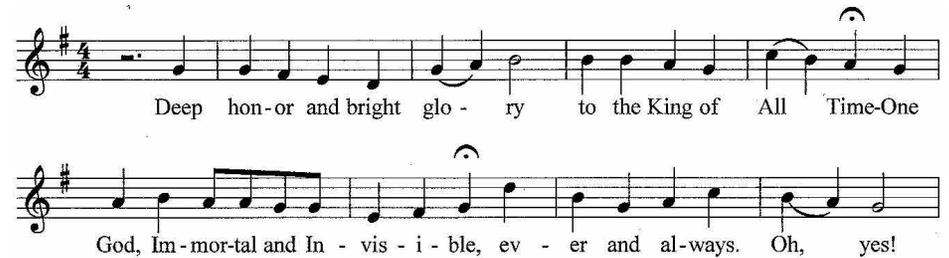
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Recalling his own sordid past as a zealous persecutor of those who followed Christ, and how God turned him in a new direction, the apostle Paul wrote the following to Timothy – a young man he was grooming for ministry. Listen...

(after a slight pause)

- 1 - I'm so grateful
- 2 - grateful to Christ Jesus
- 1 - for making me adequate to do this work.
- 2 - He went out on a limb, you know,
- 1 - way out on a limb!
- 2 - in trusting me with this ministry.
- 1 - The only credentials I brought to it
- 2 - the only credentials, mind you!
- 1 - were invective
- 2 - and witch hunts
- 1 - and arrogance.
- 2 - But I was treated mercifully
- 1 - Mercifully!
- 2 - because I didn't know what I was doing –
- 1 - I didn't know Who I was doing it against!
- 2 - Grace mixed with faith
- 1 - and love
- 2 - poured over me
- 1 - and into me.
- 2 - And all because of Jesus.
- 1 - Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on:
- 2 - Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

- 1 - I'm proof—
- 2 - Public Sinner Number One—
- 1 - proof of someone who could never have made it
- 2 - apart from sheer mercy.
- 1 - And now he shows me off –
- 2 - evidence of his endless patience –
- 1 - he shows me off
- 2 - to those who are right on the edge
- 1 - right on the edge!
- 2 - of trusting him forever.
- 1 - Sing it out!
- 2 -



from *The Message*, adapted
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tune: "Old Hundredth" (aka "Doxology")

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

In this paraphrase, Paul writes, “*I’m grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work.*” The Latin behind the word “adequate” means “to make equal.” How many times in life do we not feel equal to the task set before us? That’s especially true when it comes to our faith and the things we sense God calling us to do. “I’m not equal to the task,” we tell ourselves. “This Jesus stuff is beyond me.”

I can’t teach others. I can’t stand and speak in public. How can I make sense of all these Bible and theology questions? I’m supposed to “love my enemy” or “turn the other cheek” when attacked? I’m struggling to love my family at times, let alone some “enemy.” I’m not equal to all this!

“*I’m grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work,*” Paul wrote Timothy, mindful of how far from the mark he had once been. And yet, when his ‘turning time’ came, God made him equal to the task. Once he had been in charge of ending this Jesus movement. Now he was tasked by God to spread it.

As you return your offering just now, think about all the times you have said to yourself, “I can’t do this,” in relation to something God or the church called you to try. “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,*” Paul wrote elsewhere (Philippians 4:13). Say that to yourself as you put your offering in the plate ... and be grateful...

Ushers?

Prayer of Confession & Call to Repentance

We will pray the following prayer with our bodies. Please stand if you are able. Every time you hear me pray, “Great God, we are sinners,” turn and face the back of the sanctuary. Each time you then hear, “Turn us around,” turn to face the front of the church. ... Let us pray.

Great God, we are sinners. We get everything wrong. It is like we are facing the wrong way, dreaming the wrong dreams, working toward the wrong goals. Turn us around so that we face you, dream your dreams, work toward your goals.

Great God we are sinners. Too often we are selfish grabbing the most food, the prettiest clothes, and the coolest games for ourselves.

Turn us around. Teach us to share what we have. Give us generous hearts.

Great God, we are sinners. Too often we think only of ourselves. We think about what we want, what we like, what we think.

Turn us around. Teach us to see all the people around us. Help us recognize what people in our families and our friends want and need and hope. Help us learn to take care of them and their needs.

Great God, we are sinners. Too often we hate. We hate people who are not like us. We hate people who make our lives even a little harder. We hate people who get in our way. We hate people we just do not like.

Turn us around. Teach us that people who are not just like us are your children and worthy of our friendship. Show us how to make friends with those who do not agree with us.

Great God, we are sinners. We know it. We admit it and want to change.

Turn us around to face you, to become your children, to be part of your kingdom.

We bring our confessions of sin to you and ask for your help in turning around in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

by Carolyn C. Brown,
a retired minister of Christian Education
in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),
from her blog, “Worshiping With Children”
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/08/year-c-proper-19-24th-sunday-in.html>

Responsive Assurance of Forgiveness

Turn to #706 in your hymnal,
and be assured of God’s forgiveness...

Leader: Because of God's great love for you
and God's rich mercy for all,
you are fully forgiven.

People: **We will live as those who are truly loved
and truly forgiven
through the gift of God's grace.**

Hymnal #706
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Benediction

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Isaiah 35:10 from the New Revised Standard Version Bible,
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