

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

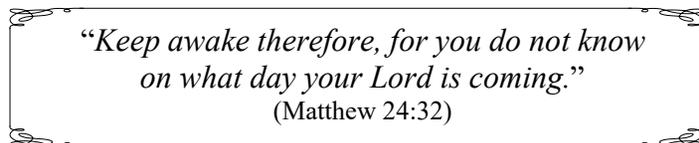
November 27, 2016

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

## First Sunday of Advent



Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “In thee is gladness”                      114

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

We may not know when,

**but you are coming to us,**

**grace overflowing from your heart, O God.**

We may not know who,

**but your hope will be shared**

**by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.**

We may not know how,

**but your peace will transform**

**our angry words into warm welcomes,**

**our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Hope.**

Lighting the First Candle of Hope

\*Awakening                      “The Lord is coming”                      (insert)

\*Opening Prayer

\*Hymn                      “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”                      178

Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122 in parallel

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video                      “Swords to Plows”  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Romans 13:8-14                      (from *The Message*)

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

Hymn                      “Away in a manger”                      194

Silence

Prayer of the Day (*ends with the Lord’s Prayer*)

Matthew 24:36-44

Message                      “*Hope in action*”

\*Hymn                      “Holy Spirit, Truth divine”                      508

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-11-27.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2016/16-11-27.mp3)

Last announcement:

As you prepare to worship, I invite you to read the opening paragraph on the back of your bulletin while our organist sets the scene with her music.

## Keep Awake

It is difficult to keep awake when we are surrounded by darkness and only one small candle is lit. One candle just doesn't give much light. Our eyes strain. We might be tempted to get a cup of coffee to help us stay awake. We might seek out other candles to make additional light, so that we're more alert. And yet as we sit and let our eyes adjust, we realize that one candle is enough. A single flame glows and pierces the darkness with hope. Yes, the one candle symbolizes our hope that the Light of the World is coming. This one candle is enough to allow us to begin our journey this holy season.

Connie Burkholder, pastoral team  
Monitor Church of the Brethren  
McPherson, Kansas

## Call to Worship

Please join in the Call to Worship in your bulletin.  
Your part is in bold print.

We may not know when,  
**but you are coming to us,**  
**grace overflowing from your heart, O God.**  
We may not know who,  
**but your hope will be shared**  
**by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.**  
We may not know how,  
**but your peace will transform**  
**our angry words into warm welcomes,**  
**our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Hope.**

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman, adapted  
currently interim Pastor at  
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.  
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

## Lighting the First Candle

*(the person lighting the first Advent candle walks down the aisle as the congregation gives voice to the above with a lit candle. After the congregation says the last words, "Spirit of Hope," he or she silently lights the first candle on the wreath, the one in front.)*

*(After this first Advent candle is lit, the worship leader motions the congregation to rise, holding up the bulletin insert with the song.)*

## The Lord is coming

A - wake, a - rise and o - pen your eyes, for a new day is  
dawn-ing, an o - pen sur - prise. So watch and pray and don't be dis -  
mayed. May your heart beat with hope that will show you the way.

*refrain:*  
The Lord is com - ing, lift up your voice. Let all God's  
peo - ple sing and re - jice. His ad - vent is what we cel - e -  
brate. God's king - dom comes, for which we a - wait.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first three staves contain the main melody, and the last three staves contain the refrain. Chord symbols (D, F#m, G, A) are placed above the notes to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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## Opening Prayer

O Christ, we wait for your arrival, we long for your coming. We desire to keep awake and welcome you into our lives once again. Stir us to faithfulness, even when we only see darkness. Open our eyes to even the smallest flicker of light. And birth in us the alertness which comes from the expectancy of faith, that we may welcome you with joy. Amen.

Connie Burkholder, pastoral team  
Monitor Church of the Brethren, McPherson, Kansas  
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin  
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Remain standing and let us sing,  
“Come, thou long-expected Jesus,”  
#178 in your hymnal.

## Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122 in parallel

- 1 - The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:1)
- 2 - Psalm 122. A Song of Ascents. Of David.
  - 1 - In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come & say, (Isaiah 2:1-3a)
  - 2 - I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. (Psalm 122:1-4)
  - 1 - "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3b)
  - 2 - For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." (Psalm 122:5-8)
  - 1 - God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

- 2 - For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:9)
- 1 - O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

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## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

- 2 - "Pray for peace," the Psalmist instructs, "Peace be within you."
- 1 - "They shall beat their swords into plowshares," Isaiah envisions, "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
- 2 - Words of Hope – God's encouragement, God's promise.
- 1 - Let us respond with our tithes and offerings. Ushers?

Offertory Video  
"Swords to Plows"  
[https://youtu.be/dWH4R0\\_-4hg](https://youtu.be/dWH4R0_-4hg)

## Romans 13:8-14

- 1 - Don't run up debts, except
- 2 - Except?
- 1 - Yes, except for the huge...
- 2 - the huge...
- 1 - the HUGE debt of love you owe each other.
- 2 - When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along.
- 1 - The law code,
- 2 - you know: don't sleep with another person's spouse,
- 1 - don't take someone's life,
- 2 - don't take what isn't yours,
- 1 - don't always be wanting what you don't have,
- 2 - and any other "don't" you can think of
- 1 - The law code finally adds up to this:
- 2 - Love other people as well as you do yourself.
- 1 - You can't go wrong when you love others.
- 2 - When you add up everything in the law code,
- 1 - the sum total is love.
- 2 - But make sure that you don't get so absorbed
- 1 - and exhausted
- 2 - in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations
- 1 - that you lose track of the time and doze off,

- 2 - oblivious to God.
- 1 - The night is about over,
- 2 - dawn is about to break.
- 1 - Be up and awake to what God is doing!
- 2 - God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed.
- 1 - We can't afford to waste a minute.
- 2 - We must not squander these precious daylight hours
- 1 - in frivolity and indulgence,
- 2 - in sleeping around and dissipation,
- 1 - in bickering and grabbing everything in sight.
- 2 - Get out of bed and get dressed!
- 1 - Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute.
- 2 - Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

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Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

*(after all has been shared)*

“Pray for peace,” the Psalmist instructed us earlier, adding this blessing: “Peace be within you.” ... We come now to a time for prayer. As we enter into it, we are led by a Christmas carol. Keep awake! Pay attention as you sing - especially the final verse, a child-like prayer for the Lord to be near, to stay close, and to love us. And then there is a shift, asking God to bless all children in “thy tender care.”

We have just heard several requests for prayer. In the silence after the hymn, do your part by quietly praying for these persons, that the Lord might bless them, “and fit (them and) us for heaven.”

Let us sing,  
“Away in a manger,”  
#194 in your hymnal.

Silence

# Prayer of the Day

In the days to come,  
may we work to establish justice  
in all the places of oppression;  
may we learn to set aside our differences,  
like little children on a playground  
meeting those who have just moved in;  
may we awaken from our apathy,  
to discover the wonder offered to us  
by those we do not recognize as family.  
Then we will find ourselves standing  
within the gates of your grace, Approaching God.

In the days to come,  
may we be alert to the opportunities  
we will have to welcome the stranger;  
may we keep our eyes open  
for the chances to offer hope to the despairing;  
may we expect to find you  
in every person we meet,  
in every place we go.  
Then we will find ourselves standing  
within the gates of your love, Babe of Bethlehem.

In the days to come,  
may we discover that fear has fled  
as your hope draws ever near;  
may we lay aside the shadows of our doubts,  
and put on the shawl of grace;  
may we go take all the weapons  
crafted from our fears, our anger, our regrets,

and transform them into generous gifts  
of hope and life for all around us.  
Then we will find ourselves standing  
within the gates of your peace, Spirit of gentleness.

In the days to come, may we find ourselves  
standing within the gates of your heart,  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
even as we pray the prayer of your Child, *(The Lord's Prayer)*

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,  
currently interim Pastor at  
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.  
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

# Benediction

“So, friends, take a firm stand,  
feet on the ground and head high.  
Keep a tight grip on what you were taught,  
whether in personal conversation or by our letter.  
May Jesus himself and  
God our Father,  
who reached out in love  
and surprised you with gifts  
of unending help and confidence,  
put a fresh heart in you,  
invigorate your work, and  
enliven your speech.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 from The Message  
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