

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

January 22, 2017

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

Epiphany – a time of Calling ^{two}

*“Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light.
And it shines upon everyone who lives
in the land of darkest shadows.”
(Isaiah 9:2 Contemporary English Version)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “I owe the Lord a morning song” 651

Announcements

Prelude

Welcome

*Hymn “Holy Spirit, come with power” 26

(pause after each verse and speak up Psalm 27:1:)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?”

*Responsive Prayer Psalm 27:4-9 *(Laughing Bird version)*

*One: Only one thing I ask of you, LORD, the one thing that
really matters: let me live out the whole of my life right
here in your presence; let me lose myself in your beauty,
and abandon myself to prayer.*

**All: Let me hide here in safety with you, when trouble gets
too much; You are as secure as a bomb shelter, a
protected place to rest and recover.**

*One: You have lifted me beyond the reach of those who wanted
to tear me down, so I am here to express my thanks, to
offer you whatever I can give; to sing your praises till I
raise the roof, to put on a concert in your honor.*

**All: Don’t ever stop being generous, LORD; hear me and
answer me when I call for help!**

*One: My heart tells me to search for you. Please don’t stay
hidden from me. My desire is to know you, face to face.*

**All: Don’t slam the door on me in anger; Help me again and
I’ll go on serving you. Don’t give up on me now, don’t
turn your back on me; You alone can save me, God!**

*Greeting and blessing each another

To the Church 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 *(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 “In the cross of Christ I glory” 566

Pastoral Prayer

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 together 827

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Message *“The power of two”*

*Hymn “Move in our midst” 418

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at
www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-01-22.mp3

Welcome

The word, “welcome,” is derived from the Old English, “willa” (desired) and “cuma” (guest). You are a **desired guest** in this household of God, whether you have been here many times, just a few, or if this is your first time through our doors. Welcome.

Our known guests today include our brothers and sisters from the Dundalk Church of the Brethren, who last week remembered and celebrated the life of your congregation, as you laid it to rest in hope of the new thing God will resurrect. We are Easter people, after all, who believe in the risen Christ... Perhaps we also have other desired guests among us today. Welcome to you.

We have intentionally asked everyone to wear a name tag this morning. If you do not have one, raise your hand and someone will bring you one. Names are important. This congregation has been praying for over two years for a kidnapped young woman in Nigeria whom we only know by her name. Your name is important to us. Thus, nametags... By the way, if we expect visitors, nametags are important. Think about that when you say to yourself, “I don’t want to wear one.’

God knows us by name. Even before a name was given to us by our parents, God knew us. God knows us, and has drawn us to this time together in this meetinghouse. We may not feel like desired guests of the Great “I am who I am,” but we have been gathered here like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

I invite you to worship our God this morning, as we follow his Son Jesus, our Messiah, Christ, Savior, empowered by the Holy Spirit – not only to praise and learn, but also to live as disciples. To begin this time, please to turn #26 in your hymnal, “Holy Spirit, come with power.” We will pause after each verse, and speak together the first verse of the 27th Psalm: “*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*” Those words are in your bulletin. After the hymn and our third affirmation of those words, we’ll join in the responsive prayer, also in your bulletin, verses 4-9 of the same Psalm. The paraphrase of those words is from the *Laughing Bird* version, one we have used many times, from Australia.

Desired guests of Jesus Christ, if you are able, please rise in body or spirit and let us invite God to move among us.

26 Holy Spirit, come with power

BEACH SPRING 87. 87D



1 Ho-ly Spir - it, come with pow - er, breathe in - to our
2 Ho-ly Spir - it, come with fi - re, burn us with your
3 Ho-ly Spir - it, bring your mes - sage, burn and breathe each



ach - ing night. We ex - pect you this glad ho - ur, wait - ing
pres - ence new. Let us as one might - y cho - ir sing our
word a - new deep in - to our tir - ed liv - ing till we



for your strength and light. We are fear - ful, we are
hymn of praise to you. Burn a - way our wast - ed
strive your work to do. Teach us love and trust - ing



ail - ing, we are weak and self - ish too. Break up -
sad - ness and en - flame us with your love. Burst up -
kind - ness, lend our hands to those who hurt. Breathe up -



on your con - gre - ga - tion, give us vig - or, life a - new.
on your con - gre - ga - tion, give us glad - ness from a - bove.
on your con - gre - ga - tion and in - spire us with your word.

[A small table will be set part way back the center aisle, with an oil lamp upon it. During the first verse, someone (acolyte or pastor) will bring a candle (or taper, if acolyte) lit from the Christ candles on the Worship Center, and light the lamp while we speak Psalm 27:1 (below) for the first time.]

(pause after each verse and speak up Psalm 27:1:)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?”

Responsive Prayer

Please remain standing and let us join in the Responsive Prayer printed in your bulletin.

One: Only one thing I ask of you, LORD, the one thing that really matters: let me live out the whole of my life right here in your presence; let me lose myself in your beauty, and abandon myself to prayer.

All: Let me hide here in safety with you, when trouble gets too much; You are as secure as a bomb shelter, a protected place to rest and recover.

One: You have lifted me beyond the reach of those who wanted to tear me down, so I am here to express my thanks, to offer you whatever I can give; to sing your praises till I raise the roof, to put on a concert in your honor.

All: Don't ever stop being generous, LORD; hear me and answer me when I call for help!

One: My heart tells me to search for you. Please don't stay hidden from me. My desire is to know you, face to face.

All: Don't slam the door on me in anger; Help me again and I'll go on serving you. Don't give up on me now, don't turn your back on me; You alone can save me, God!

One: And all God's People said:

All: Amen!

One: Now, let's take a few minutes to greet the folks around us. Since most are wearing nametags, we can bless each other by name, saying something like: "I am glad you are here. May God bless you, _____."

Psalm 27:4-9 from the *Laughing Bird* version
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Greeting and blessing each another

(after a spell, invite folks to return to their seats)

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Pete:

Our second scripture for today is from the apostle Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth. You may recall that these folks were a contentious lot. They struggled to find their common ground. Does that sound familiar in a society that is quite divided at the present moment? The church of Jesus Christ can reflect the world around it, or it can strive for a better way. Is it any mistake that one of the most remembered chapters of the Bible comes from this letter: Corinthians 13, the Love chapter?

Right from the beginning, Paul seeks the common ground we all have. It’s not who first told us the old, old story, or the place or person who led us to Christ. It is ... It is ... well, let’s hear it from Paul. We’re reading from that familiar paraphrase called, “The Message.” Listen.

Meghan:

¹⁰ I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I’ll put it as urgently as I can: You *must* get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

Pete:

¹¹⁻¹² I bring this up because some from Chloe’s family brought a most disturbing report to my attention—that you’re fighting among yourselves! I’ll tell you exactly what I was told: You’re all picking sides, going around saying, “I’m on Paul’s side,” or “I’m for Apollos,” or “Peter is my man,” or “I’m in the Messiah group.”

Meghan:

¹³⁻¹⁶ I ask you, “Has the Messiah been chopped up in little pieces so we can each have a relic all our own? Was Paul crucified for you? Was a single one of you baptized in Paul’s name?” I was not involved with any of your baptisms—except for Crispus and Gaius—and on getting this report, I’m sure glad I wasn’t. At least no one can go around saying he was baptized in my name. (Come to think of it, I also baptized Stephanas’s family, but as far as I can recall, that’s it.)

Pete:

¹⁷ God didn’t send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach the Message of what he has done, collecting a following for him. And he didn’t send me to do it with a lot of fancy rhetoric of my own, lest the powerful action at the center—Christ on the Cross—be trivialized into mere words.

Meghan:

¹⁸⁻²¹ The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out.

from *The Message*

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Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

(unless an “of the moment” prayer emerges)

In these quieter times, God of peace, as in the busyness of our hectic days, you hear the true prayers of not just what we say, but also what we do and who we are. Hear us as we join our hearts in unity to pray for your church. May we be united in your truth, committed in your love, and sanctified by your grace, that with one heart and one voice we might proclaim your gospel., in word and deed, praising you for your abiding presence in our midst as a community of faith.

We pray for our fellow creatures, this world which you lovingly made, and the people of earth with all their diversity and commonality. We lift to you those in our world who weep, and those who cause their weeping; those without food, clothing, shelter or a means of sustaining life with the dignity of one whom you have created. We pray for those who distort the good news of the gospel, who make gods out of things, out of themselves, out of their systems, institutions or structures...and who find it all so hollow and empty.

We pray for those who live without meaning and hope, who live as objects of the whims of others, and those who live in broken families, broken communities, and a broken world. Lead your church, we pray, toward a new vision of our mission to them in Christ—the vision of shalom—both those who are afar off in other lands, but

also here, where each of us may encounter them personally.

Tender and compassionate friend, give us the assurance that you are here among your people, and the gifts of quiet and rest in this celebration of your word and table. Enable us with your guidance to be your church and to do your will in our common life together. Pour out your Spirit on those who are suffering, especially as we lift to you our own needs and the needs of those whose lives are closely linked with our own: _____, and those we name in the silence of our hearts.

Bless us to follow in the paths of those saints who have gone before us in faith, whose steps were taken in the sure and certain comfort of your presence, that we may faithfully glorify you now, in your church and your world, forever. For these prayers we offer in the name and spirit of Jesus, your Christ, our Lord.

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<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2017/01/16/epiphany-3a-christian-unity/>

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 together

Would you turn to #827 in the back of your hymnal and let's read our third scripture of the day, from the ninth chapter of the prophet Isaiah. It's seems we recently paid attention to these words, amid our celebration of the birth of Jesus. However, they bear remembering. The first part of this scripture is what helps connect all today's readings, but they all are good for us to speak together. Your portions are in bold print. I will read the regular print, and join you at the end in the words in italics. Shall we read together?

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness -
on them light has shined.**
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
**they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.**
For the yoke of their burden,
And the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
**For all the boots of the tramping warriors
And all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**
For to us a child is born,
To us a son is given;

and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called

**"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
*His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, #827
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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

[To be written by the worship leader]

Benediction

Go out in response to the voice of God who calls you,
and has lit a flame within you.

Go out to proclaim the message of repentance,
for the Kingdom of heaven is near.

Go out united in purpose
and do not be afraid
when your purpose is called foolishness.

And may God be a sheltering tent above you
and a firm rock below;

May the foolishness of Christ Jesus be your wisdom;

And may the Holy Spirit be the light
that overcomes your darkness and sets you free.

adapted from *Laughing Bird* resources
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