

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 5, 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 light

*“Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.”*
(Isaiah 58:8)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Open my eyes, that I may see” 517

Announcements

Prelude “Reflection” Asper

*Call to Worship (back of bulletin)

*Hymn “To God be the glory” 102

*Opening Prayer

A Poem of Integrity Psalm 112

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

Hymn “O Master, let me walk with thee” 357

Pastoral Prayer

The prophet speaks of the absence of Integrity Isaiah 58:1-12

Moment for Mission Terri Smyth

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Andante Religioso” A. von Fielitz
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Good News Matthew 5:13-14 (from *The Message*)

Reflections from Winter Retreat

Good News Matthew 5:14-20 (from *The Message*)

Message “*Meant to be used*”

*Responsive Sending 762

*Hymn “Go, light your world” (insert)

*Postlude “Rejoice, The Lord is King” Darwall

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at
www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-05.mp3

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or spirit
and join in the Call to Worship,
found on the back of your bulletin,
as well as projected upon the screen.

(pause)

One: Where is the glory of the Lord?
In the clouds, in the skies?

All: *The glory of the Lord is all around us.*

One: All around us? I don't see it.

All: *The glory of the Lord is seen in our love, and in our service.*

One: How is this so?
Love and service do not seem full of glory.

All: *God says: "What I'm interested in seeing you do is this: share your food with the hungry, invite the homeless into your home, put clothes on the naked, support your families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. God's glory will secure your passage."*

One: I had no idea I would see God's glory through acts of love and service.

All: *Look for God's glory in the clouds and the skies, but even more so in the faces of those you serve. Be aware of God's presence in those powerful moments.*

One: I will, and may the God of grace and glory be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

by David Shetler,
district executive/minister
Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin
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Remain standing, and let us sing
"To God be the glory"
#102

Opening Prayer

O God, author of eternal light
lead us in our worshipping this day:
that our lips may praise you,
our lives may bless you,
and our meditations glorify you,
through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Hymnal #673
from the *Sarum Missal*
(a liturgy developed in 11th century England,
|which influenced the later development
of the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*)

Please be seated

A Poem of Integrity

Psalm 112

P - There are many types of Psalms in the book of that name in the Bible. Some psalms are obviously prayers, directed toward God.

M - Some of these are filled with joy and thanksgiving. Others lament bad situations and ask God for help.

P - Some psalms are meant to be sung. The 111th Psalm is a hymn which sings out the goodness of the Lord, giving heartfelt praise for all that God has done. It ends with this verse,

M - *“Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins;
sure knowledge is for all who keep God’s laws.
God’s praise lasts forever!”*

P - The very next Psalm, #112, explores that verse. It is a poem that speaks about **integrity**. Of interest is that, if we were to read it in Hebrew, the alphabet would be obvious to us. Each line begins with the next letter of the alphabet, from A to Z or, in Hebrew, from Aleph to Tav.

M - You will help read this poem of integrity. Each slide on the screen will have a line from this poem. To the left will be the letter in Hebrew. After the name of that letter is spoken, everyone will speak the line. The first line is not part of the acrostic. Let’s speak it together:

(M – guides the “All” P – reads the letters)

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Aleph א
ALL: Happy are those who honor the Lord,

Leader: Bet ב
**ALL: They take pleasure in obeying
God’s commandments!**

Leader: Gimel ג
**ALL: Their descendants shall be mighty
on the earth,**

Leader: Dalet ד
ALL: The honest shall be blessed:

Leader: He ה
ALL: Riches and wealth are theirs.;

Leader: Vav ו
ALL: and they will prosper forever.

Leader: Zayin ז
ALL: They shine like a lamp in the dark,

Leader: Het ח
ALL: They are generous, kind, and fair.

Leader: Tet ט
ALL: All goes well for those who lend generously,

Leader: Yod י
**ALL: and for those who run
their businesses honestly;**

Leader: Kaph כ
ALL: Good people will never fail,

Leader: Lamed ל
ALL: They will be remembered forever.

Leader: Mem מ
ALL: God's people are not afraid of bad news.

Leader: Nun נ
ALL: Their faith is strong and they trust in the Lord.

Leader: Samek ס
ALL: They are not worried or afraid.

Leader: Ayin ע
ALL: They are certain to see their enemies defeated.

Leader: Pe פ
ALL: Good people give generously to the poor.

Leader: Tsade צ
ALL: They are always, always kind.

Leader: Qoph ק
ALL: Other people will respect them.

Leader: Resh ר
ALL: The wicked see this and are angry.

Leader: Shin ש
ALL: They glare in hate and disappear.

Leader: Tav ת
ALL: The wicked will not get what they scheme to get.

introduction by Pete Haynes
 reading by Carolyn C. Brown,
 (her paraphrase based on several translations)
 a retired minister of Christian Education
 in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),
 from her blog, "Worshipping With Children"

The prophet speaks of the absence of Integrity

Isaiah 58:1-12

(Pete)

We turn now to the prophet Isaiah, and what he has to say about real **integrity** – what it looks like, as well as what it doesn't look like. Being a "religious" person or, since that word is not in vogue right now, being a "spiritual" person is more than just show. It involves doing what's right. God sent Isaiah to speak to his generation about this. Let's listen, using that Australian paraphrase we've found helpful: the *Laughing Bird* version... Here is Isaiah.

(pause)

- 1 - God has told me to shout until you people hear;
 to hammer home the message until it gets through.
 You are God's people, but God feels betrayed by you.
 Listen to what God has to say about your sins:
- 2 - "Day after day, you look good:
 you turn up to worship and pay attention
 to my teachings.
 You act like a people who want to do what is right;
 like a people who want to obey to the letter.
 You ask me for directions before you do anything,
 and you seem enthusiastic about
 getting closer to me.
- 1 - "Do you want to know why your religious behavior
 turns me off?
 Do you want to know why I ignore

your fasting and bowing?
I'll tell you why. You put on a great performance
of it all,
but then you go straight back to feathering
your own nest
and ripping off your workers in the process.

2 - "When you fast, it just makes you irritable and violent;
and when you behave like that,
I'll just hang up on you.

1 - "Do you really think this is what I like to see:
a day of pious misery?
black clothes, long faces and crocodile tears?
giving up chocolate and ice-cream?
Do you think that's worship?
Do you think that pleases me?
Give me a break!

2 - "Do you want to know what I'd really like to see?
Dismantle the structures of injustice;
take your feet off the throats of the poor;
stop jailing the victims of unfair laws;
and quit plundering nature's resources.

1 - "Do you want to know what else I'd like to see?
Open your tables to the hungry;
open your hearts and your homes to the refugees;
open your wardrobes to those without clothes;
and don't go hiding every time you see
someone in need.

2 - "Do that, and I'll put your name up in lights!
Do that and our relationship will be healed
in an instant!

I'll put you under my personal protection;
anyone who attacks you will have to deal with me,
the LORD!

I'll be on hand to respond whenever you need me;
just say the word, and I'll be there for you.

1 - "If you abandon all forms of exploitation,
and avoid bad-mouthing others to gain an edge;
if you share what you have with those in need,
and respond to the real needs
of suffering communities;
then you'll find that the world will light up for you
and life will be one beautiful day after another.

2 - "I, the LORD, will always be there to guide you;
even in the grip of drought,
I'll keep you healthy and well fed.
You'll be like an irrigated vineyard
with its own deep bore,
green and lush and full of life!

1 - "Your ruined houses will be renovated and new;
you'll be able to restore the homes
that have been in your families for generations.
You'll get a reputation for making dreams possible,
for enabling everyone to find a good place to live."

Moment for Mission

(Terri Smyth, for the Witness Commission)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Isaiah called God's people long ago "*to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your **light** will break forth like the dawn,*" Isaiah said, "*and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*"

Those are good words to ponder
as we return our tithes and offerings.

Ushers?

Good News

Matthew 5:13-14

(Pete)

Now we come to some Good News, pulled from the Sermon on the Mount – what Jesus had to say long ago, according to St. Matthew. We're dividing this reading into two parts, pausing in the middle for some reflections on last weekend's District Youth Retreat. We'll read from Eugene Peterson's paraphrase called "The Message." Listen.

(Meghan)

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

from *The Message*
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Reflections from Winter Retreat

(Meghan, our youth advisor, and other youth?)

Good News

Matthew 5:14-20

Continuing the Good News of Jesus
from Matthew 5:13-14... Listen.

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

“Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.

“Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won’t know the first thing about entering the kingdom.”

from *The Message*

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Responsive Sending

(Meghan leads)

To bring this worship to an end, we will first speak, and then sing, our words of sending one another out into God’s world as salty Jesus people and light bearers. We will use #762 in your hymnal, also projected on the screen. Some lines will be spoken by those on the “left” (that’s your left, not mine). Other lines will be uttered by those on the right (your right). It begins and ends with all our voices joined as one. Please rise.

(pause until all are up and ready, then lead)

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Left: Come as Holy fire and burn in us.

Right: Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within.

Left: Come as Holy Light and lead us in our darkness.

Right: Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance.

Left: Come as Holy Power and overcome our weakness.

Right: Come as Holy Life and dwell in us.

***ALL: Send us, abide with us, use us,
that the Father may be glorified
and our joy be made full. AMEN***

Hymnal #762

Ancient prayer, source unknown, adapted by Charles F. Whiston, 20th c.,
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