

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 12, 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 choosing time

“Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.”

(Deuteronomy 30:19c)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Unto thy temple, Lord...” 4

Announcements

Prelude “Andante in F” *Beethoven*

*Call to Worship adapted from Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (*The Message*)

*Hymn “Come, thou fount” 521

*Opening Prayer Meghan Knight

Responsive reading of Psalm 119:1-8 (insert)

Moment for Mission Terri Smyth

Invitation to Return our Tithes and Offerings

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

Song (vs. 1-2) “Up on a mountaintop” (*insert*)

Jesus Teaching Matthew 5:21-26

Song (vs. 3) “Up on a mountaintop” (*insert*)

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

Hymn “Breathe on me, breath of God” 356

Pastoral Prayer

Moment to Stretch Robyn Hunt

Jesus Teaching Matthew 5:27-37

Song (vs. 4) “Up on a mountaintop” (*insert*)

Message “*Choosing what’s right*”

*Hymn “Dear Lord and Father of mankind” 523

*Benediction

*Postlude “All is Well” *Amer. Folk hymn*

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at
www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-12.mp3

Call to Worship

P - We begin worship with the words of Moses to the children of Israel as they prepared to enter the promised land. In the valley of Moab, with the Jordan river in front of them, Moses called them to renew their covenant with the One who had set them free. He said,

M - *I place before you Life and Good, Death and Evil. And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God, your God, in the land you are about to enter and possess. But I warn you: If you have a change of heart, refuse to listen obediently, and willfully go off to serve and worship other gods, you will most certainly die. You won't last long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*

P - On this first day of the week, our rising day in Christ, we hear this old, old call to **choose life**. I invite you now to rise in body or spirit, and respond to this call with your affirmation.

C - We choose life so that we and our children will live. We love God, our God, and will listen obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Because, yes, he is life itself!

M - Remain standing, and let us sing our praise: “Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,” # 521.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 from *The Message*, adapted
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Opening Prayer

(written by Meghan)

Responsive reading of Psalm 119:1-8

Please be seated... From the story behind Deuteronomy, we turn to the Psalms. Last week, our Psalm was an acrostic. Each line began with a word starting with the next letter in the Hebrew alphabet, from Aleph to Tav (sort of like our A to Z). Psalm 119 is also an acrostic. However, in this poem there are 22 segments, each with 8 verses, corresponding to the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. There are 176 verses total in this Psalm. We will only read the first segment. Shall we begin?

One - You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God.

All - You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him.

One - That's right—you don't go off on your own; you walk straight along the road he set.

All - You, God, prescribed the right way to live; now you expect us to live it.

One - Oh, that my steps might be steady, keeping to the course you set;

All - Then I'd never have any regrets in comparing my life with your counsel.

One - I thank you for speaking straight from your heart; I learn the pattern of your righteous ways.

All - I'm going to do what you tell me to do; don't ever walk off and leave me.

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Moment for Mission

(Terri Smyth)

Invitation to Return our Tithes and Offerings

(Terri Smyth)

As we return our tithes and offerings, I invite you to view this video about the ministry of the *Helping Up Mission*. But first, please pray with me.

When we could choose to be selfish,
may we share from our abundance;
when we could choose to be hoarders,
let us give away all we have;
when we could choose to be broken,
let us be reconciled with those around us.
Bless our lives, as well as these gifts, we pray. Amen.

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currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Offertory Video

(<https://youtu.be/hai0G5gX7MY>)

Up on a mountaintop, part 1

(Meghan:)

Two weeks ago, we launched into Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, beginning with the beatitudes. As a reminder, let us sing together the first 2 verses of the song "Up on a mountaintop," written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. The tune is familiar – "Be thou my vision."

(Pete leads vs. 1-2 on guitar)

Jesus Teaching

Matthew 5:21-26

*(1 - Pete at pulpit, 2 - Meghan at lectern,
3 - on left side, half way back, 4 - on right side, half way back)*

1 - Jesus continued:

2 - "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times,

3 - (shout) 'You shall not murder';

1 - and

4 - (shout) 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

2 - But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister,

3 - (shout) Grrrr!!!

2 - you will be liable to judgment;

1 - and if you insult a brother or sister,

4 - (shout) What an idiot!

1 - you will be liable to the council;

2 - and if you say,

3 - (shout) 'You fool,'

2 - you will be liable to the hell of fire.

(3 walks up to the worship table with some money to put in the offering plate. Just as s/he is about to put it in:)

1 - So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

(3 stops, and put the money on the table, not in the plate, and goes to 4)

1 - leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,

(3 apologizes – pantomime it – and they hug, then 3 comes forward & places offering in the plate, then returns to his/her pew, as does 4)

1 - and then come and offer your gift.

2 - Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge,

1 - and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

2 - Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

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Up on a mountaintop, part 2

Matthew 5:27-37

(1 - Pete at pulpit, 2 - Meghan at lectern,
3 - on left side, half way back, 4 - on sight side, half way back)

- 1 - Continuing Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
- 2 - "You have heard that it was said,
- 3 - 'You shall not commit adultery.'**
- 1 - But I say to you that everyone who **looks** at a woman **with lust** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 2 - If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away;
 - 1 - it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- 2 - And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away;
 - 1 - it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.
- 2 - "It was also said,
- 4 - 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'**
- 2 - But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery;
 - 1 - and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- 2 - "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times,
- 3 - 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.'**
- 2 - But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven,
 - 1 - for it is the throne of God,
 - 2 - or by the earth,
 - 1 - for it is his footstool,
 - 2 - or by Jerusalem,
 - 1 - for it is the city of the great King.
 - 2 - And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.
 - 1 - Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No';
 - 2 - anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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Up on a mountaintop, part 3

(http://www.carolynshymns.com/up_on_a_mountaintop.html)

Benediction

One: Go now, with God's love,

All: we will choose to be a blessing to others.

One: Go now, with Christ's hope,

All: we will choose to serve all in need.

One: Go now, with the Spirit's peace,

All: we will choose to share life in every moment.

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