

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 19, 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

*“In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”*                      (Matthew 5:48 *The Message*)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “I heard the voice of Jesus say” 493

Announcements

Prelude                      “As Torrents in Summer”                      Elgar

\*Invitation

\*Hymn                      “From all that dwell below the skies”                      49

\*Unison Prayer                      Psalm 119:33-40                      (*insert*)

A verse to guide                      Matthew 5:48  
*in various translations & paraphrases*

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

Hymn                      “Help us to help each other”                      362

Pastoral Prayer

Torah Reading                      Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
*(when directed, say:) “I am the Lord your God.”*

Sharing from the *Helping Up Mission*

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory                      “Andante Sostenuto”                      Noble  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Gospel Reading                      Matthew 5:38-48

Message                      “*Can’t do this alone*”

\*Hymn                      “Up on a mountaintop”                      (*insert*)

\*Benediction

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

\*Rise in body or in spirit

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message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-19.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-19.mp3)

# Invitation

*(written by Meghan Knight)*

# Unison Prayer

Please join in the *Unison Prayer* printed on your bulletin insert, as well as projected on the screen. We will pray together a segment of Psalm 119...

Teach me, Lord, the way of what you say,  
that I may follow it to the end.

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.

Turn my heart toward where you point  
and not toward selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
preserve my life according to your word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.

Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.

How I long for your guidelines!

In your righteousness preserve my life. Amen

Psalm 119:33-40 (adapted)  
from the *New International Version*®, NIV®  
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“From all that dwell below the skies” #49

Please be seated.

# A verse to guide

Matthew 5:48

*in various translations & paraphrases*

- 1 - In his Sermon on the Mount, *(click)*
- 2 - his Sermon on the Mount ain, Jesus said: *(click)*
- 1 - “Be perfect, therefore,  
as your heavenly Father is perfect.” *(NRSV & NIV)*
- 2 - The word “perfect” *(click)* can catch us up, for we are all far from perfect.
- 1 - Perfection can seem as far away from us as the peak of Mount Kenya is in this picture.
- 2 - It’s impossible. Only the sturdiest of climbers can “be perfect” as “God most high.”
- 1 - With a telescope, however, *(click)* we can see the mountaintop.
- 2 - In Greek, the word, “perfect,” *(click)* shares the same root as the word, “telescope.”
- 1 - It means, “Distant,” *(click)*
- 2 - or “far away.”
- 1 - “Something distant from us is brought closer.”
- 2 - Or “we are brought nearer to something far away.”
- 1 - Keep this in mind as you listen to some other translations or paraphrases of this verse. *(click)*
- 2 - “Keep aiming to do better. Model yourselves on the perfect love of your Father in heaven and settle for nothing less.” *(click)* *(Laughing Bird)*

- 1 - *But you are called to something higher:* “Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.” *(click)* *(The Voice)*
- 2 - But you must always act like your Father in heaven. *(click)* *(CEV)*
- 1 - Now you, you all must be mature, as your spiritual Father is mature. *(click)* *(Cotton Patch)*
- 2 - Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete. *(click)* *(CEB)*
- 1 - “In a word, what I’m saying is, *Grow up*. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” *(The Message)*
- 2 - There is no way, however, that we can do this without help.
- 1 - Help from God.
- 2 - Help from each other. *(click)*

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

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Hymn

“Help us to help each other” #362

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Pastoral Prayer

# Torah Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

*Meghan:*

We will read from the Torah, God's Law for the children of Israel. You have a part in this, a phrase that repeated in the scripture. Whenever we point to you, please read:

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

Let's practice *(do so)* ... Now listen to God's Law.

*Pete:*

The Lord told Moses to say to the community of Israel, Be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

When you harvest your fields,

do not cut the corn at the edges of the fields,  
and do not go back to cut the ears of corn  
that were left.

Do not go back through your vineyard

to gather the grapes that were missed  
or to pick up the grapes that have fallen;  
leave them for poor people and foreigners.

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

*Meghan:*

Do not steal or cheat or lie.

Do not make a promise in my name if you do not  
intend to keep it;

that brings disgrace on my name.

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

*Pete:*

Do not take advantage of anyone or rob him.

Do not hold back the wages of someone you have  
hired, not even for one night.

Do not curse a deaf man or

put something in front of a blind man so as  
to make him stumble over it.

Obey me;

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

*Meghan:*

Be honest and just when you make decisions  
in legal cases;

do not show favoritism to the poor  
or fear the rich.

Do not spread lies about anyone, and  
when someone is on trial for his life,  
speak out if your testimony can help him.

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

*Pete:*

Do not bear a grudge against anyone,

but settle your differences with him,  
so that you will not commit a sin because of him.

Do not take revenge on anyone or continue  
to hate him,

but love your neighbor as you love yourself.

*All:*

**I am the Lord your God.**

*Lead in to the next part of worship:*

*Meghan* - There is no way, however, that we can do this without help.

*Pete* - Help from God.

*Meghan* - Help from each other.

## **Sharing from the *Helping Up Mission***

## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

As we prepare to return our tithes and offerings,  
would you pray with me?

God of Unimaginable Love, you sent your Son into our midst that we might see his way of love, which is so different from what the world has shown us. It calls us to give with extravagant generosity and to love those who wrong us. Holy God, bless the offering we give, and may what we share this morning be used to bring your compassion and grace to those who need it the most. May people know we belong to you by the way we love and the way we give. In the name of Christ, who gave all for us. Amen.

Ushers?

# Benediction

I hope this week is not, for you,  
full of back-handed slaps,  
underhanded deals, or  
required tasks that take you by surprise.

If you do, however,  
remember that you do have  
the power of choice  
in how you will respond.

And as you go, also remember  
that you do not go alone.  
We are behind you.

Furthermore,  
Jesus Christ is right ahead of you,  
God is all around you, and  
the Holy Spirit is within you.  
Amen?