

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 26, 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

*“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and  
have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though  
she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved  
you on the palms of my hands...” (Isaiah 49:15-16a)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)    “There is a place of quiet rest”    5

Announcements

Prelude                      “Moderato”                      Dubois

Call to Worship                      Isaiah 49:8-16a

\*Hymn                      “Now thank we all our God”                      86

\*Opening Prayer

Hands on

Response                      “And I will raise you up”                      596

Returning our Tithes and Offerings                      1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Offertory Video                      “Giving Back”                      *(Helping Up Mission)*  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture                      Psalm 131

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

Hymn                      “Be still, my soul”                      (insert)

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel                      Matthew 6:24-34

Message                      “*Yeah... right*”

\*Hymn                      “O God, in restless living”                      557

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      “Eyer”                      Mary Eyre MacElree

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-26.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-02-26.mp3)

# Call to Worship

- 1 - This is what the Lord says:
- 2 - “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you;
- 1 - I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives,
- 2 - ‘Come out,’
- 1 - and to those in darkness,
- 2 - ‘Be free!’
- 1 - “They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.
- 2 - They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.
- 1 - He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.
- 2 - I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up.
- 1 - See, they will come from afar — some from the north, some from the west, some from the southland.”
- 2 - Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!
- 1 - For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said,

2 - “The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.”

1 - “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?

2 - Though she may forget, I will not forget you!

1 - See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...

Isaiah 49:8-16a, adapted from  
the *New International Version*®, NIV®  
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Rise in body or spirit, and join in singing, “Now thank we all our God,” #86 in your hymnal – the words also projected on the screen.

Hymn

## 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  
Sarum Missal, 11th c.

Please be seated.

# Hands on

**M** - Take a moment and look at your hands. The human hand is a marvel. 27 bones connect up to give each of these hands quite a range of motion. The thumb is unique, for it makes all sorts of things possible. With it, you can pick up and grasp many items.

**P** - Thus far in your life, these hands in front of you have accomplished a great deal. With them, you have played as a child - from pushing a toy truck to dressing a doll; from throwing, hitting, or catching a ball, to drawing with a pencil, painting with a brush, or writing with a pen.

**M** - These hands may have dug and planted in the soil, changed the oil in a car, kneaded bread to be baked, comforted a sick child, done taxes, shook the hand of a guest or a customer, set a mouse trap or computed with a mouse, turned the page of a novel, underlined a verse of scripture, shaved with a razor, combed through hair, carried innumerable boxes, done most anything and everything throughout your years.

**P** - Focus now upon the palms of your hands. Do you see all the creases? Most of these wrinkles were there at your birth. They help your hand move, allowing the skin to be flexible. Imagine what it would be like without them - skin stretched tight, unable to bend in the ways a hand needs to in order to accomplish all your hands have done.

**M** - Some folks see in those wrinkles something about you: your health, your character, the length of your life, your future. But what do you see?

**P** - Long ago, God spoke to the children of Israel through the prophet Isaiah. Years before they had been forced to leave their homeland. Like refugees, they had lived in a foreign land as exiles, feeling forgotten by God. "I will help you," God said through the prophet. "I will restore you. The road home is prepared for you. Pick up your bags and head back." But they could not believe it. A joyful song seemed un-sing-able, for they felt forsaken.

**M** - "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?" God asked. Well, of course not. "Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" And then the Lord said, "Imagine my hand, which is like yours. There on my palm, I have engraved you. That tattoo cannot be removed."

**P** - What's a bit startling about this is that it is usually the symbol or name of the master that is branded upon the slave or animal as proof of ownership. Here, the name of God's people is permanently fixed upon the palm of God. Every time this hand opens, there is a reminder for God. "I will not forget you."

**M** - Look again at your own palm. You are a child of God. There are times when these hands are tired. The joints may hurt, just like the heart may ache. Along the way, you may feel forgotten, forsaken, unloved, lost, wondering if the work of these hands mattered at all. Now, imagine the hands of God, which are like your hands (for we are made in God's image). Can you hear the Lord say, "There on my palm, I have engraved you."?

If so, let's sing God's promise from the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm, #596 in your hymnal, the words projected upon the screen.

*(Pete leads song on guitar)*

# And I will raise you up 596

ON EAGLE'S WINGS\*

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the". The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and". The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "hold you in the palm of my hand." The score includes various chords such as D, Em, A7, D, D7, G, A, Bm, F#m, Em, A7, and D.

\*Original title

Text: based on Psalm 91, Michael Joncas, alt.

Music: Michael Joncas

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## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

(Terri:)

Last week, we heard first-hand, during worship and in our face-to-face fellowship afterward, about the ministry of the *Helping Up Mission*. As a follow-up, while the offering is collected, let's watch another video about their work - testimonies from the families of some of the men who made it through the program, who are now giving back to the community. Before we do so, however, let's listen to the words of the apostle Paul.

<sup>1</sup> Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ & stewards of God's mysteries. <sup>2</sup> Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup> I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup> Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.\*

Ushers?

\*1 Corinthians 4:1-5 from the  
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Offertory Video - <https://youtu.be/NWSv0EGyqDc>

# Psalm 131

(Meghan:)

As we head into our time of sharing, let's listen to the 131<sup>st</sup> Psalm in three different translations or paraphrases. We'll pause between them to allow time for the words to linger and sink in. Perhaps a word or a phrase will stick in your imagination. Allow it to sit with you. Listen.

*(Kay, Georgia, and Karen come forward during the video and stand near the windows on the piano side. In turn, each quietly approach the floor mic to speak. Put 20-30 seconds between each reading.)*

(Kay:)

## Psalm 131

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.
- <sup>2</sup> But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
- <sup>3</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD  
from this time on and forevermore.

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(Georgia:)

## Psalm 131

- <sup>1</sup> GOD, I'm not trying to rule the roost,  
I don't want to be king of the mountain.  
I haven't meddled where I have no business  
or fantasized grandiose plans.
- <sup>2</sup> I've kept my feet on the ground,  
I've cultivated a quiet heart.  
Like a baby content in its mother's arms,  
my soul is a baby content.
- <sup>3</sup> Wait, Israel, for GOD. Wait with hope.  
Hope now; hope always!

*from The Message  
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(Karen:)

## Psalm 131

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, I have given up my pride  
and turned away from my arrogance.  
I am not concerned with great matters  
or with subjects too difficult for me.
- <sup>2</sup> Instead, I am content and at peace.  
As a child lies quietly in its mother's arms,  
so my heart is quiet within me.
- <sup>3</sup> Israel, trust in the Lord  
now and forever!

*Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)  
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*Joys and Concerns*

# Benediction

May the God of love and compassion  
fill your hearts with joy and peace.  
May he wrap his loving arms around you  
as you leave this place,  
for nothing is impossible  
for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
And all God's people said:

AMEN

*(written by Meghan Knight)*