

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 23, 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

## Second Sunday of Easter

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      "Jesus, stand among us"                      25

Announcements

Prelude                      "O Loving Savior"                      Gounod

Call to Worship                      *(Selected Verses from Psalm 16 – CEV)*  
response, when prompted: **"Alleuia!"**

\*Hymn                      "Low in the grave he lay"                      273

\*Opening Prayer

Gospel Story 1 – The First Easter                      John 20:19-23

\*Greeting One Another                      *"Peace be with you"*

Gospel Story 2 – Later That Day                      John 20:24-25

Nail Marks

Affirmation of Faith                      713

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video                      "Doubting Thomas"                      by Nickel Creek  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture                      1 Peter 1:3-9

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

Hymn                      "Tis not with eyes of faith we see"                      571

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Story 3 – On the Eighth Day                      John 20:26-31

Message                      *"My Lord and my God"*

\*Hymn                      "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing!"                      278

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      "Thine is the Glory"                      G.F. Handel

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-23.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-04-23.mp3)

# Call to Worship

(Selected Verses from Psalm 16)

We begin with Psalm 16. After each verse from the *Contemporary English Version* is read, you are invited to stand, raise your arms toward heaven, and shout, “Alleluia!” Then sit back down. Now, if your knees and back are not what they once were, feel free to remain seated, but still raise your arms and shout ... shout what? “Alleluia!” ... That’s correct. Let’s begin

One: I say “Only you are my Lord!  
Every good thing I have is a gift from you.”

**All: Alleuia!**

One: Your people are wonderful,  
and they make me happy,

**All: Alleuia!**

One: You, Lord, are all I want!  
You are my choice,  
and you keep me safe.  
You make my life pleasant,  
and my future is bright.

**All: Alleuia!**

One: I praise you, Lord, for being my guide.  
Even in the darkest night,  
your teachings fill my mind.  
I will always look to you.

**All: Alleuia!**

One: You won’t leave me in the grave  
or let my body decay.

**All: Alleuia!**

One: You have shown me the path to life,  
and you make me glad by being near to me.  
Sitting at your right side,  
I will always be joyful.

**All: Alleuia!**

from the *Contemporary English Version*®  
Copyright © 1995 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.  
as adapted by Carolyn C. Brown,  
a retired minister of Christian Education  
in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),  
from her blog, “Worshiping With Children”

Please be seated.

Now that you are used to sitting and standing, let’s turn to “Low in the grave he lay,” #273 in your hymnal. The words will also be on the screen. During the verses, we’ll sit, then stand for the refrain. Again, you know your knees and back better than anyone else. If you need to, choose to either sit or stand throughout the song. Let’s rejoice! Christ is risen!

# 273 Low in the grave he lay

CHRIST AROSE 11 10 with refrain

1 Low in the grave he lay, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Wait-ing the com-ing day,  
 2 Vain-ly they watch his bed, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Vain-ly they seal the dead,  
 3 Death can-not keep its prey, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! He tore the bars a-way,

Refrain  
 Je - sus, my Lord! Up from the grave he a - rose, with a  
 he a-rose,

might - y tri-umph o'er his foes! He a - rose a vic - tor from the  
 He a-rose!

dark do - main, and he lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign! He a -  
 rose! He a - rose! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ a - rose!  
 He a-rose! He a-rose!

Text: Robert Lowry, 1874, *Brightest and Best*, 1875  
 Music: Robert Lowry, 1874, *Brightest and Best*, 1875

## Opening Prayer

O God, who rolled away the stone  
 put in place to hold your own,  
 help us push aside our fear  
 and live the faith that you are here.

O God, who raised Christ from the grave,  
 leaving there an empty cave,  
 lift our hearts and minds this hour;  
 fill us with your Spirit's power.

O God, who meets us on the way  
 from this moment to each day,  
 with your presence, us disturb  
 that our faith become a verb. Amen.

*(reused from April 3, 2005)*

Please be seated.

# Gospel Story 1 – The First Easter

John 20:19-23

- 1 - We begin our gospel story where we left off last week.
- 2 - In John's account, Mary first saw the open and empty tomb, and ran to tell the others. She was quite upset.
- 1 - When Peter and the other disciple then ran back to where the body of Jesus was supposed to be, she followed.
- 2 - Peter didn't know what to make of it, though the other disciple believed.
- 1 - They returned to the room in which they all were hiding, but Mary remained, and was the first to encounter the risen Christ.
- 2 - Listen to what happened next...  
(pause)
- 1 - <sup>19</sup> *When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said,*
- 2 - *"Peace be with you."*
- 1 - <sup>20</sup> *After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again,*

2 - *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*

1 - <sup>22</sup> *When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,*

2 - *"Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

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## Greeting One Another

"Shalom!" ... "Peace be with you." A common greeting when entering a home among God's people. According to John, this was the first thing the risen Christ said to his gathered disciples. Perhaps he repeated it because they stood dumbfounded. Or maybe it was because "Shalom! God's peace" was so central to his purpose, and theirs – as those who are sent by God.

Let's take time right now to greet each other with his words. Share them from the heart with those around you:

"Peace be with you."

There are many ways of authentically sharing God's peace, in word and deed, with our neighbors. Let's get in the habit of doing so.

"Peace be with you."

# Gospel Story 2 – Later That Day

John 20:24-25

1 - The gospel story continues, for, you see

2 - one of the disciples had been away. Listen...

(pause)

1 - *24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him,*

2 - *“We have seen the Lord.”*

1 - *But he said to them,*

2 - *“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

(pause)

1 - Unless I see the mark of the nails

2 - I will not believe.

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# Nail Marks

When you entered our worship space this morning, you were given a nail. Take it out and hold it in your hand. If you did not receive one, please raise your hand and an usher will come to you.

A carpenter uses a nail to bind together two pieces of wood. With a hammer, he pounds the head into one of them. Once through that one piece, he continues to hammer away as the nail then enters the other piece, joining them together. The use of several nails helps secure the two pieces of wood as one.

Nails are important for building. In a similar way, questions are important for faith. You could say that if we have never raised any questions about what we hold closest to our heart, if we have not given voice to our doubts, our faith will not hold together when the storms of life come. Even then, when wind and rain threaten to undo our dwelling, we still wonder, “will it all collapse?” But if we have made good use of nails in the building, if we have lifted up our questions – even if there are no answers given to all of them – our faith will not be torn apart.

The disciple Thomas has long been associated with questions of faith. We sometimes call him “doubting Thomas,” but that phrase in no way diminishes him, for doubt is an integral part of faith. Without questions, even questions for which we have no answers, there is no faith. We learn how to trust God **through** our questions, not **in spite of** them.

I invite you now to turn in your hymnal to #713 in the back. The words will also be projected on the screen. This affirmation of faith comes from one of our partners in making this hymnal. Mennonites are not as reluctant to use formal creeds as are Brethren. This creed is an adaptation of one created especially for *The* (1969) *Mennonite Hymnal*.

As we read in unison this affirmation, hold your nail in one hand and your hymnal in the other. You may have questions, there may be doubts within you as you read. Pay attention to them. Give yourself permission to trust God through these questions and doubts. These are your nail marks. Through them, you believe.

# Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who was promised to the people of Israel,  
who came in the flesh to dwell among us,  
who announced the coming of the rule of God,  
who gathered disciples and taught them,  
who died on the cross to free us from sin,  
who rose from the dead to give us life and hope,  
who reigns in heaven at the right hand of God,  
who comes to judge and bring justice to victory.

We believe in God,  
Who raised Jesus from the dead,  
who created and sustains the universe,  
who acts to deliver God's people in times of need,  
who desires everyone everywhere to be saved,  
who rules over the destinies of people and nations,  
who continues to love us even when we turn away.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who is the form of God present in the church,  
who moves us to faith and obedience,  
who is the guarantee of our deliverance,  
who leads us to find God's will in the word,  
who assists those who are renewed in prayer,  
who guides us in discernment,  
who impels us to act together.

We believe God has made us a people,  
to invite others to follow Christ,  
to encourage one another to deeper commitment,  
to proclaim forgiveness of sins and hope,  
to reconcile people to God through word and deed,  
to bear witness to the power of love over hate,  
to proclaim Jesus the Ruler of all,  
to meet the daily tasks of life with purpose,  
to suffer joyfully for the cause of right,  
to the ends of the earth,  
to the end of the age,  
to the praise of Christ's glory.

Hymnal #713  
adapted from *The Mennonite Hymnal*  
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# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

The story is not yet finished. There is more to be revealed, in the gospel account from long ago, as well as in the good news story of our lives, here and now. Like the disciple Thomas, we live with our questions and our doubts, nail marks along the way of faith.

As we journey, we are empowered to risk. Our offerings – what we put into the plate just now, as well as the time and effort we put into what we hear God sending us to be or do – these offerings stretch us. After all, we could put this money, time, and energy into other things. But the Lord is growing us through our nail marks, through our giving, through our risking.

Ushers, please come and receive our offerings.

## Offertory Video

“Doubting Thomas” by Nickel Creek

[https://youtu.be/E3c\\_8hYK0eo](https://youtu.be/E3c_8hYK0eo)

# 1 Peter 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

## Hymn

“‘Tis not with eyes of faith we see” - #571



# Pastoral Prayer

Lord of life, hear us as we lift to you our hopes and prayers for the church and the world. Let your grace empower us as people of faith to better serve you in the common places of our lives, and in the people we meet on our faith journeys. Open our eyes to the living Christ as we pray for and work with the poor, the broken-hearted, the sick and the bereaved. Hear our prayers for those who are close to our hearts. In your resurrecting power, lift them up and give them renewed strength and hope; and give to us all new faith by which to live our days with you. Then will our lives be living witness to your resurrection, made whole by your love and care. In Christ's Spirit we pray.

adapted by David Chafin, Deputy Regional Minister  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia  
from his blog: [lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com](http://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com)

*scripture text to the right*→  
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# Gospel Story 3 – On the Eighth Day

John 20:26-31

1 - And now, we turn to the third part of this morning's gospel story.

2 - In the same sense that Jesus rose "on the third day,"

1 - the first day being Friday, the third being Easter Sunday;

2 - so the following takes place "on the eighth day,"

1 - the first day being Easter, the eighth being the next Sunday

2 - Listen

(pause)

1 - <sup>26</sup> *A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said,*

(1 & 2 face each other)

2 - (to 1) *"Peace be with you."*

1 - <sup>27</sup> *Then he said to Thomas,*

2 - (to 1) *"Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ...* <sup>28</sup> *Thomas answered him,*

1 - (to 2) *"My Lord and my God!" ...* <sup>29</sup> *Jesus said to him,*

2 - (to 1) *"Have you believed because you have seen me? (to congregation) Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

# Benediction

By God's great mercy  
we have been given a new birth  
into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.  
He stands among us still, saying,  
"Peace be with you!"

As you head out from this place,  
walk the path of new life and living hope.  
And may the peace of the risen Christ be with you!