

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

June 25, 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

God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." (Genesis 21:17-18, Common English Bible)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) "Come, let us all unite to sing" 12

Announcements

Prelude "Andantino" Elgar

*Call to Worship Psalm 86:1-10 *Contemporary English Version*

*Hymn (vs. 1-3) "Crown him with many crowns" 116

*Opening Prayer

Unison Confession 703

Scripture Romans 6:1-11 from *The Message*

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "The Quiet Hour" Christopher
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture Matthew 10:24-31 *NIV*

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

Prayer Song "Lord, listen to your children" 353

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Genesis 21:8-21 *NRSV*

Song "El Shaddai" (insert)

Message "*When paths diverge ... God hears*"

*Hymn "Lead on, O cloud of Presence" 419

*Benediction

*Postlude "Postludium" Armstrong

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-06-25.mp3

Call to Worship

1 - Rise, in body or spirit, to be led into worship by the Psalmist.

(pause)

2 - *Please listen, Lord, and answer my prayer! I am poor and helpless.*

1 - *Protect me and save me because you are my God. I am your faithful servant, and I trust you.*

2 - *Be kind to me! I pray to you all day. Make my heart glad! I serve you, and my prayer is sincere.*

1 - *You willingly forgive, and your love is always there for those who pray to you.*

2 - *Please listen, Lord! Answer my prayer for help.*

1 - *When I am in trouble, I pray, knowing you will listen.*

2 - *No other gods are like you; only you work miracles.*

1 - *You created each nation, and they will all bow down to worship and honor you.*

2 - *You perform great wonders because you alone are God.*

(pause)

1 - Let us “Crown him with many crowns,”
verses 1-3 of #116.

Psalm 86:1-10 from the *Contemporary English Version*®
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Opening Prayer

Let us pray...

Spirit of peace,
quiet our hearts,
heal our anxious thoughts,
free us from our fretful ways.

Breathe on us your holy calm
so that in the stillness of your presence
we may open ourselves to trust and be transformed.

AMEN

Hymnal #729
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Please be seated...

Unison Confession

We seek to be honest with God, about where we are in our life of faith, as well as where we are not. Would you join your voice mine in a unison confession of sin?, #703 in the hymnal, also project on the screen...

(pause)

Gracious God, hear our confession.

Our faith is uncertain,
our forgiveness slow,
our conviction weak,
our compassion wavering.

We have exalted the proud and powerful,
put down the weak,
saturated the rich with good things,
neglected the poor,
sent the hungry away empty-handed.

We have helped ourselves.

Show us your mercy,
Help us show mercy,
through your Son, our Savior. AMEN

Hymnal #703

Adapted from the musical "Prayer Phrases"
by Harris J. Loewen, ©1986

Romans 6:1-11 (to the right) is from *The Message*
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Romans 6:1-11

Listen now to the apostle Paul...

¹⁻³ So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

³⁻⁵ That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

⁶⁻¹¹ Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

“...when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us...” (Romans 6:9-10 from *The Message*)

In Christ, and through the Holy Spirit, God is with us... Let's respond to that good news with our tithes and other offerings. Before we do so, would you give us who plan worship some feedback, especially concerning what we project on the screen? – which, for better or worse, we're calling “powerpoint,” because that's the computer program we use.

Six questions are printed on your bulletin insert. Let me go through them one-by-one. Feel free to add any wisdom you have which may go beyond these questions, but which pertain to our use of powerpoint. When done, please fold and put them in the plate along with your offering.

1. Do you find that powerpoint (projecting words/pictures upon the screen): *circle one*

- a) helps you to worship b) hinders your worship
c) neither helps nor hinders d) I'm not sure

2. Do worship videos: *circle one*

- a) help you to worship b) hinder your worship
c) neither helps nor hinders d) I'm not sure

3. Can you read the following text sizes:
check all that apply

28 ____ 32 ____ 36 ____ 40 ____ 44 ____

4. Which size text (above) helps you to read best?
choose one

5. Order these fonts as to how helpful they are for you to read (1-6)

____ Calibri	____ Comic Sans
____ Papyrus	____ Tempus Sans
____ Times New Roman	____ Viner Hand

6. How often should we use powerpoint? *circle one*

every week every other week
once a month once “in a blue moon”

Thank you!

And now, ushers, please forward and assist in the returning of our offerings to God.

Offertory - “The Quiet Hour” - Christopher

Matthew 10:24-31

²⁴“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul (bee-EHL-zee-buhl), how much more the members of his household!

²⁶“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

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Genesis 21: 8-21

four readers: Abraham, God, Sarah, and Hagar
At the beginning Abraham stands at the bottom of the steps in the center, with Sarah and Hagar standing on either side. God stands up the steps, behind Abraham off to the same side with Hagar.

Abraham: *The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.*

Sarah: *But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.”*
(Sarah points to Hagar with one arm straight out.)

Abraham: *The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.*

God: *But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”*

Abraham: *So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away.*
(Abraham turns Hagar to the side and also points away.)

Hagar: (Hagar steps several steps away from Abraham then reads.)
And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

God: *And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes*

Hagar: (Hagar moves to the center in front of Abraham and Sarah)
and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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Dramatized by Carolyn C. Brown,
a retired minister of Christian Education
in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),
from her blog, “Worshipping With Children”

El Shaddai

(Chorus:)

El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, El-Elyon na Adonai.
Age to age, You're still the same by the power of the name
El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai.
We will praise and lift You high, El-Shaddai

1. Through Your love and through the ram
You saved the son of Abraham.
Through the power of Your hand,
turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees,
You were the God who really sees.
And by Your might You set Your children free. *(Chorus)*

2. Through the years, You made it clear
that the time of Christ was near.
Though the people could not see,
what Messiah ought to be.
Though Your Word contained the plan,
they just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done
through the frailty of Your Son. *(Chorus - twice)*

<p><i>El-Shaddai</i> - means "God Almighty" <i>El-Elyon na Adonai</i> - means "God in the highest, Oh, Lord" <i>Erkamka na Adonai</i> - means "We will love You, Oh, Lord"</p>
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Benediction

- 1 - Live purposefully,
- 2 - for God hears the voice of every child.

- 1 - Live trustingly
- 2 - for even the hairs of our heads are numbered.

- 1 - Live bravely,
- 2 - for fear of failure is overshadowed
by the love of Christ.

- 1 - May the cool head of Christ Jesus guide you,
- 2 - the immovable rock of God's love underpin you,

- 1 - the warm fires of the Spirit embolden you,
- 2 - today and always.

- 1 & 2 - **Amen!**

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