

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

August 13, 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

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.”

(Romans 10:8)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “God is here among us” 16

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

One: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Left: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Right: *righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*

Left: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

Right: *and righteousness will look down from the sky.*

One: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

*Hymn (vs. 1-3,7) “All creatures of our God and King” 48

*Opening Prayer (ends with *The Lord’s Prayer*)

Elijah Meets God at Horeb

1 Kings 19:9-14a

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

Hymn “Take my hand and lead me, Father” 601

Prayer of Intercession

Returning our Tithes and Offerings Romans 10:13-15

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

Gospel amid the storm Matthew 14:22-33

Flashback

Message “*With brush in hand*” Meghan Knight

*Hymn “When the storms of life are raging” 558

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-07-13.mp3

Call to Worship

One: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Left: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Right: righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Left: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

Right: and righteousness will look down from the sky.

One: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Psalm 85:8-13 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
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Hymn

(vs. 1-3,7) "All creatures of our God and King" - #48

Opening Prayer

1 - You come as a great wind, splitting our fears into fragments, breaking our prejudices into tiny pebbles that hurt no one.

2 - You are a summer's breeze that stirs the growing grass; you are the soft breath which makes us more caring.

1 - You come as an earthquake, knocking all our doctrines off their neat shelves, smashing them beyond recognition.

2 - You are the gentle touch that wakens us from our nightmares, whispering, 'it's just me; don't be scared.'

1 - You are the fire that rages against the injustices visited upon the poor, the broken, the vulnerable (often in your name).

2 - You are the spark that lights the passions for your people so we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the oppressed, visit the sick.

1 - As you pass by us in so many ways,

2 - may we take notice of you, God in Community,

1 - Holy in One, even as we pray,

All – Our Father, who art in heaven... (*The Lord's Prayer*)

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,
currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Elijah Meets God at Horeb

1 Kings 19:9-14a

N - Narrator, standing below

E - Elijah, at lectern

V - the Voice/word of the Lord, at pulpit

N - From Psalm 85, we turn to the story of Elijah meeting God on Mt. Horeb. Not long before this, Elijah – God’s great prophet of power – had defeated 450 prophets of the false god, Ba’al on Mt. Carmel. Afterward, he raced king Ahab to Jezreel, beating the royal chariot on foot to the gates of the king’s residence. His confidence was quickly shattered, however, when Queen Jezebel put a price on his head. In response, Elijah – this great prophet of power – ran away full of fear. In the wilderness for 40 days and nights, he journeyed all the way to Horeb, the mount of God. There he found a cave and spent the night. And so we come to the following encounter. Listen...

(pause)

N - ⁹ *At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,*

V - *“What are you doing here, Elijah?”*

N - ¹⁰ *He answered,*

E – (with a fearful, shaking voice) *“I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”*

N - ¹¹ *He said,*

V - *“Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”*

N - *Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.*

E - a still small voice (King James Version, RSV)

V - a sound. Thin. Quiet. (Common English Bible)

E - a gentle and quiet whisper. (The Message)

V - a gentle breeze, (Contemporary English Version)

N - ¹³ *When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said,*

V - *“What are you doing here, Elijah?”*

N - ¹⁴ *He answered,*

E - (with bold confidence) *“I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts...”*

(let hang, indicating more is said, but not now)

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

Hymn

“Take my hand and lead me, Father” - #601

Prayer of Intercession

With all our heart and with all our mind and with all our strength, let us pray to the Living God, saying,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this good earth, this holy creation, and for the wisdom and will to cherish, understand, reverence, rightly use, and conserve it, we pray to the living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all in danger, hunger, or sorrow, for the aged and infirm, the widowed and orphaned, the sick and suffering in body or mind, for prisoners and refugees, the poor and oppressed, the unemployed and destitute, the bereaved and alone, the war-torn and wounded, and for all who care for them, we pray to the living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who hold positions of trust in the worlds of religion, education, government, business, community, culture, and family, that they may promote the well-being of all creation, we pray to the living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For any who have caused us pain, for those we struggle to understand and strain to love, for all who do not love us or consider themselves our enemies, that they may be truly blessed and that we may be fully reconciled, we pray to the living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and our circles of family and friends, for the grace to learn, desire, and do your will humbly in our daily life and work, we pray to the living God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

from *We Make the Road by Walking*, p.268-9
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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

To the believers in Rome, the apostle Paul quoted the prophets, saying:

“Everyone who calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help.”

(Joel 2:32)

And then Paul asked,

“But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?”

Romans 10:13-15 from *The Message*
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As you return your offering in the moments that follow, ponder those questions. In the process, offer yourself (not just your money) to the good work of sharing good news – with your words and with your actions.

Ushers, please come and assist us in giving.

Oh, and would you all please sign the attendance pad on your pew, and pass it on?

Offertory

(partway thru, forward to the next “Offertory” slide.
The background picture will change from calm to stormy sea)

Gospel amid the storm

Matthew 14:22-33

We turn now to the Gospel reading for today from the fourteenth chapter of Matthew. Last week we read the story immediately before this, in which the disciples fed over 5,000 people with the five loaves and two fish that Jesus multiplied... Perhaps you recall that at the beginning of the episode Jesus, upon receiving the news of the beheading of his cousin John (the Baptist), felt the need to get away and pray – only the crowds would not let him. Instead, he turned his compassion toward the people, healing many. At mealtime, he commanded his disciples to feed the crowd, rather than send them away. The story does not end there, however. Listen to what happened next, according to Matthew...

(forward ppt to video of raging sea)

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying,

“It is a ghost!”

And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

28 Peter answered him,

“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”

29 He said,

“Come.”

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out,

“Lord, save me!”

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him,

“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying,

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

(wait until reader sits, then forward ppt to the next video “flashback”)

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Flashback

(video of stormy sea with vs. 1 solo of
“When the storms of life are raging,”
then Oct. 2014 news report from Columbia, SC)

Message

“With brush in hand”

Meghan Knight shares of her work camp experience helping folks rebuild in the aftermath of 2015 flooding.
<http://www.brethren.org/bdm/rebuild/south-carolina.html>

Hymn

“When the storms of life are raging” - #558

Benediction

- 1 - You have been raised with Christ.
- 2 - Do the work of Christ in the world:
 - 1 - extend a hand to those in need,
 - 2 - speak up for those others would cast aside,
 - 1 - build bridges of reconciliation,
 - 2 - strengthen bonds of community,
 - 1 - and extend the invitation of life,
 - 2 - community and purpose to others
 - 1 - knowing that
 - 2 - God who created you,
 - 1 - Christ who redeems you
 - 2 - and the Spirit who empowers you
 - 1 - will be with you this day and ever more.
 - 2 - Amen.

written by the Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, Senior Pastor
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United Church of Christ

Postlude