

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

October 29, 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

“Show me the coin used to pay the tax.” And they brought him a denarion. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked. “Caesar’s,” they replied... (Matthew 22:19-21)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      Psalm 96                      (insert)

Announcements

Prelude                      “Ode to Joy”                      Beethoven

Call to Worship                      Psalm 96:1-6                      (*Contemporary English Version*)

\*Song of Praise                      “Psalm 96”                      (insert)

\*Opening Prayer

A Unison Affirmation of Faith                      713

Gospel of Gratitude                      1 Thessalonians 1:1-10                      (*from The Message*)

Moments to quietly reflect and write

Returning our Tithes and Offerings                      Psalm 96:7-9 (*CEV*)

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

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

Hymn                      “A wonderful Savior is Jesus”                      598

Prayer

Gospel Challenge                      Matthew 22:15-22

Message                      “*In whose image?*”

\*Hymn                      “O worship the Lord”                      124

\*Unison Benediction

May the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ  
abide in us and guide us.

May the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ  
light our way.

May the joy of our Lord Jesus Christ  
fill our hearts today and always. Amen.

\*Postlude                      “Filled with the Spirit’s Power”                      Birmingham

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[rockhay.tripod.com/sermons](http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons)

# Call to Worship

Voices 1 & 2 begin speaking (with microphones) from the back of the sanctuary. As they read, they walk towards the front on the outside aisles. By the end, they should be up front. The guitarist will begin as soon as they finish, and they motion the congregation to rise.

- 1 - *Sing a new song to the Lord!*
- 2 - *Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name.*
- 1 - *Day after day announce, "The Lord has saved us!"*
- 2 - *Tell every nation on earth, "The Lord is wonderful and does marvelous things!"*
- 1 - *The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise!*
- 2 - *He is the only God worthy of our worship.*
- 1 - *Other nations worship idols, but the Lord created the heavens.*
- 2 - *Give honor and praise to the Lord, whose power and beauty fill his holy temple."*

Psalm 96:1-6 from the *Contemporary English Version*®  
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Opening Prayer →  
Hymnal Supplement #1023  
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## Song of Praise Psalm 96

words and music by  
Richard Hays

1. O sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord O all the earth.  
2. He is to be feared above all gods. All other gods are idols, A -  
3. O let the heavens be glad. Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
4. (repeat verse 1)

Sing to the Lord, O bless His Name Tell of His sal - va - tion.  
scribe to the Lord all glo - ry and strength. Bring your of - fer - ing, come to Him.  
let the field ex - ult, in Him and all that is with - in it.

From day to day de - clare His glo - ry a - bove all na - tions.  
Hon - or and ma - jes - ty are be - fore Him; strength and beau - ty are in His name.  
Then shall the trees of the wood all sing for joy be - fore the Lord,

His mar - vel - ous works be - fore all peo - ples. For great is the Lord, O  
O wor - ship the Lord in ho - ly ar - ray, and trem - ble be - fore Him  
be - cause He comes to judge the earth. And He will judge with

great is the Lord and great - ly to be praise - ed.  
all the earth. Say to the world that the Lord reigns.  
right - eous - ness, and the peo - ples with His truth.

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## Opening Prayer

Gracious God, move our timid hearts to be bold like those of your prophets and hymn poets. We have come to worship; Take our broken words, sounds, and signs and make of them praises and songs that are acceptable to you. Amen.

# A Unison Affirmation of Faith

In our tradition, we say that our creed is the New Testament, not some list of beliefs that defines us as “Christian.” However, it is good to ponder what we believe. Our *Unison Affirmation of Faith* is from our Mennonite cousins, with whom we share our hymnal. They are not averse to formal creeds. I invite you to speak this affirmation as if it were an open door to God’s possibilities. It doesn’t say everything, but it says some things, which are important, and good for us. Let us join our voices in this lengthy reading, taking a deep breath before we start...

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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# Gospel of Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Pete:

Listen, now, to how the apostle Paul began his first letter to the folks in Thessalonika, as paraphrased in *The Message*. As you pay attention to Paul's thankfulness, think about all for which you are thankful. After this reading of Paul's good news of gratitude, we'll pause for a short time of reflection. For what are you thankful today? Take those moments to write down your own Gospel of Gratitude. But first, let's hear from Paul all that he and his cohort were thankful for long ago:

*<sup>1</sup> I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace!*

*<sup>2-5</sup> Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.*

*<sup>5-6</sup> You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great*

*trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit! — taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.*

*<sup>7-10</sup> Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.*

*from The Message*  
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## Moments to quietly reflect and write

*Pete:* In your bulletin is a piece of paper for you to use in coming up with as much as you can think of what you are thankful for today. Feel free to write or draw. It doesn't have to make sense to anyone else who might see it, but God will know. What is your Gospel of Gratitude this morning – the good news of your thankfulness? Spend this time putting it on that paper. Then, if you feel so moved, place it in the plate when it is passed later on, along with your offering. Let your grateful imagination flow.

# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

*<sup>7</sup> Tell everyone of every nation, "Praise the glorious power of the LORD. <sup>8</sup> He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple. <sup>9</sup> Everyone on earth, now tremble and worship the LORD, majestic and holy."*

Psalm 96:7-9 from the *Contemporary English Version*®  
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So sings the Psalmist.

Now is the time to bring our offering to the Lord.  
If you feel so moved, include your Gospel of Gratitude.  
Pray with me.

As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment, may we become imitators of you, Gracious God, who holds nothing back from us, but is generous and gracious with all that is yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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

Ushers, come and receive our offerings.

## Offertory

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

# Before we sing...

Before we sing our prayer hymn, it might be helpful to know a bit of the scripture behind the words. They go back to the days of Moses leading God's people through the Sinai desert after they had escaped slavery in Egypt. Moses spent a great deal of time on the mountain talking with God, interceding for the children of Israel, as well as receiving commandments from the Lord for their journey. On one occasion, Moses asked to be able to see God, to behold His glory. The Lord responded,

*"I will make all my goodness pass before you... but, you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."*

(Exodus 33:18-23)

The words to the hymn, "A wonderful Savior is Jesus," were written by someone who also longed to see God. Fannie Crosby was blinded at six weeks of age because of improper treatment for an eye infection. That did not prevent her, however, from writing nearly nine thousand hymns, of which approximately three thousand were published. And her words are rich with imagination. It's as if, though blind, she really did see God.

Allow this hymn to draw you into the presence of the Lord.

Hymn #598

"A wonderful Savior is Jesus"

# Prayer

Hidden and yet not hidden ... you know us more deeply than we know ourselves, O Lord. There is much that remains a mystery when it comes to why we behave in certain ways. We think we grasp what lies behind our motivations, and then understanding slips through our fingers. We seem always in the process of being remade, like a highway forever under construction. We long to arrive at that place called, “finished,” but then we realized we have only just begun. The debris litters our way, and before we know it, we trip and fall all over ourselves. Bruised and, perhaps, broken, we turn and there is your hand gently pulling us up, that we can continue. Thank you.

Hidden and yet not hidden ... you are greater than our ability to comprehend you, bigger than the horizons of our vision, brighter than our squinting eyes can perceive, always just around the bend, between the lines of our conversation, underneath the surface of our awareness. “*No shall see me and live,*” you once spoke to Moses as you placed him in the crevice of rock, covering him as you passed by. Is that how it is with us today when we wonder where you are amid all the difficulties we face, all the tragedies in the world around us, all the suffering and hurt and injustice? Are we prevented from seeing you because you have placed us in the cleft and placed your hand over us? If so, keep it up. You have heard some of what tears at our hearts as we have shared with our sisters and brothers here just now. You also know what we have not spoken. Pass by this spot and continue your work

righting the wrongs in this world in your way, as you will. Even so, could we have just a peek?

Hidden and yet not hidden ... that’s what you are, O Lord. It’s also what we are. May the messages of this hour – conveyed through preacher, singer, pray-er, reader; heard in word and melody and silence – inspire us for the living of these days. Guide us to follow toward where you lead. Help us to do as you direct, to reach out with hands and heart and mind which belong to you. This, and so much more, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

Gospel Challenge  
Matthew 22:15-22

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup> They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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Message

*“In whose image?”*

Hymn #124

“O worship the Lord”

## Unison Benediction

Shall we send each other forth  
by joining our voices together  
in our *Unison Benediction*?

May the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ  
abide in us and guide us.

May the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ  
light our way.

May the joy of our Lord Jesus Christ  
fill our hearts today and always. Amen.

by Kenneth L. Gible, Chambersburg, PA  
from *Living Waters* #24, June 1995

## Postlude