

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

January 14, 2018

Worship 10:00 am                      Sunday School 11:10 am

**Large print hymnals are available, please see an usher**

This room is equipped with a sound loop for the hearing impaired

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Psalm 139:14*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      "Come, thou fount"                      521  
Announcements  
Prelude

\*Call to Worship    *(adapted from Revelation 1:4-6)*

Leader: Grace unto you and peace from God, who was and who is and who is to come,

**People: and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, ruler above all rulers of the earth.**

Leader: In love Jesus Christ suffered death to free us from our sins,

**People: making all who confess Christ a nation of priests set aside for God's service.**

***All: To Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever!***

\*Hymn                      "I am thine, O Lord"                      505

\*Opening prayer

Scripture    1 Samuel 3:1-20

Affirmation of faith    715

Sharing our joys and concerns  
*(please be brief when sharing a joy, concern or prayer request)*

Hymn                      "Be thou my vision"                      545

Prayer

Scripture    John 1:43-51

Returning our tithes and offerings

Offertory

Scripture    Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-14

Message    Meghan Knight

\*Hymn                      "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"                      70

\*Benediction

Postlude

*\*Rise in body or in spirit  
\* \* \* \* \**

Pastor Pete is still recovering from 11/24/2017 surgery

sermon is posted at  
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-01-14.htm>

# Call to Worship

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**People: and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, ruler above all rulers of the earth.**

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adapted from Revelation 1:4-6, from  
Ready to Preach: Ready to Use Sermons & Worship Resources  
©2012 Paul Gonzalez, p. 11

# Affirmation of faith

Hymnal #715

Leader: My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior,  
for your regard has blessed me,  
an ordinary woman, who serves you.

**People: From this day all generations  
will call me blessed,  
for you who are mighty have made me great.  
Most holy be your name.**

Leader: Your mercy is on those who fear you  
throughout all generations.  
You have shown strength with your arm.  
You have scattered the proud in their hearts' fantasy.

**People: You have put down the mighty from their seat  
and have lifted up the powerless.  
You have filled the hungry with good things  
and have sent the rich empty away.**

***ALL: You, remembering your mercy,  
have helped your people Israel,  
as you promised Abraham and Sarah  
mercy to their children forever.***

Hymnal #715, Luke 1:46-55  
from *Language About God in Liturgy and Scripture*

## Prayer

Our vision is so limited, Ruler of all. We can easily miss what lies right before our eyes. And yet, here you are – we believe – above us, around us, beneath us, within us, “in”-visioning us toward your heavenly realm: your “*kingdom come,*” your “*will be done, on earth as it is*” in that place we can only imagine by faith. With your for-giving, for-living grace, heal our shortsightedness and nudge us to dare (even if it stretches to the limit our inner eyesight) to see ourselves and our world through your eyes. As we do so, may we be empowered to see this big blue ball as **your** world, and ourselves as **your own** flesh and blood and spirit.

We thank you for the power of persistence in prayer, for the small part we had in upholding a young Nigerian girl through several years of captivity toward her recent release. Bless, O Lord, the long and winding road home for Salomi Pogu and her parents... We thank you for the strength and hope you have given and will continue to provide for the recovery journey for Ray and Terri Smyth, and for joy and laughter along the way... We bless you for what we have seen when it comes to other persons we know and love shifting from dis-ease to health. We also bless you for what we can't see, for none of us truly knows what will come in any life – other than that: you are not finished.

You have heard our sharing. You have also heard what we have not said out loud, some of which may be but an inner groan. There is much in the news, far or near, over which a “sigh” is about all we can manage. Even so - You are God. We are not. Keep on keeping on, Holy One, for as we pray by faith:

*“Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.”*

Amen

## Returning our tithes and offerings

(follows reading of John 1:43-51)

Do you remember Jacob, son of Isaac, brother of Esau? The book of Genesis tells the story of a dream he had one night as he was running away from conflict in his family. He dreamed a ladder upon which angels scurried down and up between heaven and earth. Perhaps that tale from the beginning of the Bible was intentionally woven through what Jesus had to say to a young fig-tree-dreamer named Nathanael: “You wonder if anything good can come from my hometown. Well, guess what, Nate? I invite you to begin imagining new possibilities for every place and everyone.”

On this second Sunday of 2018, we are invited, just like Philip and Nathanael, and their neighbors Andrew and Peter, to dream a bit of what might take place in the days to come, as we simply come and see and follow. Can anything good come out of Long Green Valley? What new possibilities might *the One who knows us better than we know ourselves* have us imagining? Ponder that, as you sit beneath this beautiful wood ceiling, returning your offering just now.

Ushers, please come and assist us in giving.

both the prayer and offering resource  
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