

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 25, 2018

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 Lent

“No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations... As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name... I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations.” (Genesis 17:5,15,16)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Here in this place” 6

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship Psalm 22:23-31 (from *The Message*)

*Hymn “I sing the mighty power of God” 46

*Unison Prayer 692

A Gospel Story Mark 8:27-38

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

Hymn “Beneath the cross of Jesus” 250

Prayers for Others (after each prayer statement:)

One: Loving God, give us the faith to counterbalance despair

All: and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

A Beginning Story Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Message “*By another name*”

*Hymn “Lord, I want to be a Christian” 444

*Affirming our Faith 710

*Benediction

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.

We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.

Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.

Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-02-25.htm>

Call to Worship

[1 speaks from the lectern. 2 and 3 speak from opposite sides of the congregation, with mics.]

- 1 - Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers;
- 2 - give glory, you sons of Jacob;
- 3 - adore him, you daughters of Israel.
- 2 - He has never let you down,
- 3 - never looked the other way when you were being kicked around.
- 1 - He has never wandered off to do his own thing;
- 2 - he has been right there, listening.
- 1 - Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life. And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers.
- 2 - Down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill.
- 3 - Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising him.
- 2 - "Live it up, from head to toe.
- 3 - Don't ever quit!"
- 1 - From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God.
- 2 - Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him.
- 3 - God has taken charge; from now on he has the last word.
- 2 - All the power-mongers are before him - worshiping!
- 3 - All the poor and powerless, too - worshiping!
- 1 - Along with those who never got it together - worshiping!

- 3 - Our children and their children will get in on this as the word is passed along from parent to child.
- 2 - Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news - that God does what he says.

Psalm 22:23-31 from *The Message*
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- 1 - Rise now, on your feet if you are able, but - more importantly - with all that is within you: lift up your voice and "sing the mighty power of God," #46 in the hymnal.

“I sing the mighty power of God”

Unison Prayer

1. I sing the mighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command
and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
wherever I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!
3. There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne.
While all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
there's not a place where we can flee
but God is present there.

Let us join our voices together in prayer:

O God,
you rule the world from end to end
and for all time.
You alone are God. In you alone we hope.

Forgive our sins.
Heal our diseases.
Save our lives from destruction.

We repent of our stubbornness and pride.
We desire to yield ourselves more fully to your will.

Keep us in your presence
that we might serve and witness in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

by Ernest Fremont Tittle
from *A Book of Pastoral Prayers*
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adapted for *The Mennonite Hymnal*, copyright © 1969.
further revised by *The Hymnal Project*, copyright © 1992

A Gospel Story
Mark 8:27-38

[N (Narrator) speaks from the lectern. J (Jesus) and P (Peter) speak from the bottom of the steps in center. All have mics... Readers 1, 2, and 3 are scattered amid the congregation, and speak (without mics) loudly from where they sit, so all can hear.]

N - Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples,

J - “Who do people say that I am?”

N - And they answered him,

1 - “John the Baptist;”

N - and others,

2 - “Elijah;”

N - and still others,

3 - “one of the prophets.”

N - He asked them,

J - “But who do you say that I am?”

N - Peter answered him,

(P speaks as if this is an “AHA!” moment, pointing to J)

P - “You are the Messiah.”

N - (After Peter said this,

J - Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

N - Then he began to teach them that

J - the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

N - He said all this quite openly.

(P pulls J by the arm away from N and says)

P - And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

(As N speaks, J yanks arm out of P's grasp and faces congregation)

N - But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,

J - “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

N - He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,

J - “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

from the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible, adapted
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National Council of the Churches of Christ
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Sharing a joy, a concern,
a word of testimony or praise

“Beneath the cross of Jesus”

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.
2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me.
And from my smitten heart with tears
two wonders I confess;
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for mine abiding place.
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face.
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Hymnal #250
words by Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872
music by Frederick C. Maker, 1881

Prayers for Others

©2006 (revised 2011) Bruce D. Prewer
Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia
(adapted)

P - God our Friend and resourceful Helper, as we call to mind other people in their numerous needs, we pray that you will encompass them with your loving Spirit, and enable your churches to find practical ways of ministering to them.

Somewhere at this moment there are thoughtful, kindly men and women who are staring at prison walls because they dared speak out for truth and justice.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere today children are whimpering after days of hunger, and their parents can only look on with the pain of a love that feels impotent.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere right now oppressed people are working like slaves for scant rewards while their exploiters are living in luxurious leisure.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere at this hour persecuted Christians are meeting for worship in secret, knowing that sooner or later some one might betray them.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere this morning people are facing major surgery, while others are being told that they have a disease for which there is no remedy.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere this day innocent people are suffering the chaos and brutality of war, homes are ravaged, bodies mutilated, hatreds enlarged.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere at this hour of prayer, some silent members of this congregation, and of other churches in our community, may be secretly facing crises which threaten to overwhelm them.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - Somewhere, near or far away, there are folk caught up in the raw grief of a recent death, so distressed that they wonder how they will ever be able to go on living.

*M - Loving God, give your people the faith
to counterbalance despair*

C - and the love to outweigh self-interest and neglect.

P - We thank you loving God, that your mercies are never confined to the range of our prayers, nor your servants limited to the ranks of the churches. Please bless the mighty host of those who in many races, classes and creeds who are endeavoring to serve others without thought for their own comfort, profit or safety. Through Christ Jesus our reconciler and healer.

M - Amen!

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Last week, our beginning story from the book of Genesis was of Noah's Ark. We had planned a rainbow meal around it to follow Sunday School. The only problem was that this pot luck was pre-empted by a winter storm. Interestingly enough, according to the Weather Channel, the storm was named, "Noah." While we did not cancel worship, we did postpone the meal until today. I hope you can stay and enjoy it. Please do, even if you didn't bring a dish to share. Not everyone got the message last Sunday, so there was still food on the table, and eleven of us shared it – with plenty to spare. Come and join in today. Our secretary, Allison, did a wonderful job of decorating the hall (check it out!). There are also some craft tables to put your hands to work. Crafts aren't just for children, you know. Consider painting a rainbow rock, for instance. We hope to take some of these to the Roberts family, not only to share our support with a colorful rock message, but also to provide some creative things Celeste and Pierce could do.

Though "Noah's Ark" isn't our beginning story this week, let's recall it as we prepare for our rainbow meal, through an offertory video. I invite you now to return your monetary thanksgiving to the Lord. Ushers, please come forward and assist us...

Offertory Video

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Earlier, we heard a Gospel story as told by Mark. Now we turn to the first book in the Bible for a Beginning story.

Listen...

- 1 - When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him,
- 2 - "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."
- 1 - Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
- 2 - "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."
- 1 - God said to Abraham,
- 2 - "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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Message

“By another name”

“Lord, I want to be a Christian”

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart...
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart...
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart...

Hymnal #444
an African-American spiritual

Affirming our Faith

Leader: We affirm that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
Miriam, Hannah, and Mary is our God.

**People: We affirm that God has come to us in our likeness,
taking the form of a servant in Jesus of Nazareth.**

Leader: We believe that God, in Christ,
suffered the pain and agony
of the cross to provide for our salvation.

**People: We believe that God demonstrated power
over sin and death
by raising Jesus from the dead
and declaring that the risen Christ is Lord.**

Leader: God has given us new life and freedom
in the fullness of the Holy Spirit,
who is the guide and power
of the community of believers.

**ALL: We believe that in the end,
God’s rule of peace and justice
will be fully established
and that Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Hymnal #710, adapted from a liturgy of baptism
by Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.,
Baptism and Church Membership, Worship Series 3,
ed. James H. Waltner,
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Benediction

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We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.

Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

**We will put all our fears, as well as our longings,
behind us.**

Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.

©2015 Rev. Thom M. Shuman
currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.
from: <http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com/>

Postlude