

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 15, 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

Third Sunday of Easter

*“Silver or gold I have none, but what I have
I give you. In the name of Jesus ... walk.” (Acts 3:6)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Come, ye faithful...” 264

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship 1 John 3:1-3 (insert)

*Song “We're Children of God” (insert)

*Opening Prayer

Scripture 1 John 3:4-8 (*Good News Translation*)

Unison Confession 703

Scripture in Action Acts 3:1-5

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Scripture in Action Acts 3:4-8 (*NRSV*) and Psalm 4 (*CEV*)

Hymn “Lead me, Lord” 538

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

Hymn “Lead me, Lord” 538

Prayer

Scripture Acts 3:9-21

Message “*That times of refreshing may come*”

*Hymn “I know that my Redeemer lives” 279

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-04-15.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“Come, ye faithful, raise the strain”

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness.
Now rejoice, Jerusalem, and with true affection
welcome in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.
2. 'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison.
From the frost and gloom of death light and life have risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give thanks and praise undying.
3. “Alleluia!” now we cry to our king immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
“Alleluia!” with the Son, God the Father praising;
“Alleluia!” yet again to the Spirit raising.

Prelude

Hymnal #265

Text by John of Damascus, 8th century

translated by John M. Neale, 1859

Music by Arthur Sullivan, 1872

Call to Worship

Please rise and join in the Call to Worship
printed on your bulletin insert,
as well as projected on the screen.

One - What marvelous love the Father has extended to us!

All - Just look at it - we're called children of God!

One - That's who we really are.

**All - But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or
take us seriously,**

One - because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

**All - But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of
God.**

One - And that's only the beginning.

All - Who knows how we'll end up!

*One - What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed,
we'll see him –*

All - and in seeing him, become like him.

One - All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready,

**All - with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for
our own.**

1 John 3:1-3 from *The Message*
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Remain standing and let us sing: "We're Children of God,"
new words to a familiar tune.

"We're Children of God"

tune: LYONS ("O Worship the King" - Hymn #66)

We're children of God; we're welcomed and claimed.
We're given new birth, renewed and renamed.
The world may not know yet to whom we belong,
But we are God's children and love is our song.

We're children of God who takes away sin.
In Christ we abide; our life is in him.
We offer forgiveness, seek justice and peace,
And reach out to others, that love may increase.

We're children of God and so our delight
Is living the life that's good in God's sight.
One day we'll be like him, transformed from above
To sing for eternity God's song of love.

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Opening Prayer

Risen Lord,
You walk through this earth
using the feet of even imperfect disciples;
may every race and generation take time
to look up and see you,
draw nearer, listen, and worship,
and turn to follow you. Amen.

from *For All Who Minister*, ©1993, Brethren Press, p.49.
from *With All God's People: The New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*
(Orders of Service), compiled by John Carden.
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1 John 3:4-8

Please be seated.

In the first letter of John in the New Testament,
we hear the following admonition. Listen...

⁴ Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law. ⁵ You know that Christ appeared in order to take away sins, and that there is no sin in him. ⁶ So everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin; but whoever continues to sin has never seen him or known him.

⁷ Let no one deceive you, my children! Whoever does what is right is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.

⁸ Whoever continues to sin belongs to the Devil, because the Devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Son of God appeared for this very reason, to destroy what the Devil had done.

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
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Unison Confession

Having heard those challenging words,
let's turn together and make our confession in unison –
reading from your hymnal or the screen.

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

(wait – see explanation for Acts 3:1-5)

Scripture in Action

Acts 3:1-5

Offering plates are placed on stands up front before the service begins. Right before this scripture is read, 2 ushers help a third person down the aisle, somehow carrying him/her. This “man lame from birth” is placed sitting on the top step up front, and becomes reader 2. The ushers then move to stand – one in front of the piano, the other in front of the organ, having picked up their offering plates, ready to receive the offering.

1 - *One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in.*

2 - “Alms. Money for the poor. Please help me.”

(3 comes up to 2)

1 - *People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple.*

2 - “Alms. Money for the poor. Please help me.”

1 - *Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said,*

3 - “*Look at us.*”

1 - *And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.*

(2 & 3 freeze in place as 1 continues)

↑above and to the right→
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Responding with our Offerings

1 - We stop at a light and a homeless person walks past with a sign. We know nothing about them, whether they are what they say. Our heart may break with pity, or boil with judgment. Or we might simply look away...

If you had been Peter or John, apostles of the risen Christ, how would you have responded to the cry of this man?

2 - “Alms. Money for the poor. Please help me.”

1 - Ponder that as you return your offering just now. Ushers?

Offertory

“Healer of our every ill”

(hymn #377)

by Marty Haugen

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Scripture in Action

Acts 3:4-8

1 - *Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said,*

3 - “*Look at us.*”

1 - *And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said,*

3 - “*I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.*”

(2 & 3 act out the following scene, with 2 ending up at the mic stand)

1 - *And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.*

Scripture in Action

Psalm 4

(read by 2 – do not first say, “Psalm 4.” Just launch into it.)

- ¹ You are my God and protector.
Please answer my prayer.
I was in terrible distress, but you set me free.
Now have pity and listen as I pray.
- ² How long will you people refuse to respect me?
You love foolish things,
and you run after what is worthless.
- ³ The LORD has chosen everyone who is faithful
to be his very own,
and he answers my prayers.
- ⁴ But each of you had better tremble
and turn from your sins.
Silently search your heart as you lie in bed.
- ⁵ Offer the proper sacrifices
and trust the LORD.
- ⁶ There are some who ask,
“Who will be good to us?”
Let your kindness, LORD, shine brightly on us.
- ⁷ You brought me more happiness
than a rich harvest of grain and grapes.
- ⁸ I can lie down and sleep soundly
because you, LORD, will keep me safe.

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“Lead me, Lord”

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness.
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only
that makest me dwell in safety.

Hymn #538
based on Psalm 5:8
music by Samuel Wesley

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

“Lead me, Lord”

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness.
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only
that makest me dwell in safety.

Hymn #538
based on Psalm 5:8
music by Samuel Wesley

Prayer

Safely we dwell in your presence, O Lord, assured of your protection, and that you will provide for our needs. And yet, we were not created to simply sit and beg – even though beggars we all are. “Look at me,” you say every morning. “stand up and walk.” Your voice, your Word leads us to rise and walk by faith, to face the dawn of each day and head toward where you are guiding.

Yes, we stumble along the way. Yes, our wayward feet seek other paths. Yes, we lag in energy to move. Yes, pain may cloud our awareness at times. But still you rise in us the ability to keep on keeping on.

So, yes, we take your hand (often seen in the outstretched arm of a sister or brother-in-Christ) and get up. And yes, we discover joy in the little things – a shared cup of coffee, the growing warmth of a Spring day, a smile on a stranger’s face, color returning to the land, legs and feet that work, a body that heals – slowly but surely. And yes, there is always enough, especially as our wants are in harmony with our needs. And yes, we even have the ability to dance this life we have in Christ, to make leaps of faith, to jump higher than we think possibly, as we head toward your kingdom come, trusting that your will be done – on earth as it is in heaven.

You have heard both what we have spoken just now in our sharing, as well as the cares that reside within unarticulated. Move in the lives of those mentioned, along with the countless others for whom your love in us brings forth compassion. While there is always more room within us to care, help us to dwell there carefully. We know that in your house are many mansions, more room than we will ever comprehend. So take care of your children everywhere, now and forever.

May your Spirit continue to move in us this hour, O God of resurrection and life. Work in, through, and beyond the all-too-inadequate words of this preacher. Dwell in the ponderings of all our hearts as we listen for you to speak, often in the subtle silences and pauses, the “in-betweens” that make up most of our days.

“Look at me,” you say every morning. “stand up and walk.” Your voice, your Word leads us to rise and walk by faith, to face the dawn of each day and head toward where you are guiding. Lead us, Lord.

In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN

Acts 3:9-21

⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God,
¹⁰ and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. ¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹ who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

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Message

*"That times of refreshing may
come"*

Hymn #279

"I know that my Redeemer lives"

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
what joy the blessed assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead.
He lives, my everlasting Head!
2. He lives, to bless me with his love.
He lives, to plead for me above.
He lives, my hungry soul to feed.
He lives, to help in time of need.
3. He lives, all glory to his name.
He lives, my Savior, still the same.
What joy the blessed assurance gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymnal #278

text by Samuel Medley, 1775, alt.
music – "Truro" is anonymous, 1789

Benediction

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself
and God our Father,
who has shown us such love,
and in his grace has given us
such unfailing encouragement
and so sure a hope,
still encourage and strengthen you
in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17,
adapted from the *Revised English Bible*
Hymnal #773

Postlude