

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

February 28, 2016

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 Third Sunday of Lent

*“My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.” (Psalm 63:5-8)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “Come, Holy Spirit”                      445

Announcements

Prelude

\*Call to Worship    (back of bulletin)

\*Hymn                      “All beautiful the march of days”                      159

\*Unison Prayer    686

Offertory Thought and Prayer over the Gifts

Offertory    “Isaiah 55”  
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture                      1 Corinthians 10:1-13                      (from *The Message*)

Litany of Confession    691

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

Hymn                      “Great is thy faithfulness”                      327

Prayer of the People    722

Gospel                      Luke 13:1-9

Message                      “Immersed in the Eternal Now”

\*Hymn                      “Go, my children”                      433

\*Unison Benediction to each other                      Isaiah 55:12

*“You shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”*

\*Postlude

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

Today’s sermon will be posted on our church’s *facebook* page.

### Church Calendar this week:

Wednesday – Quilters – 9:30am

Sunday – Morning Praise – 9:45am

Worship – 10am

### Long Green Church Directory                      Phone 410-592-9300

Ministers                      The People of this congregation

Pastor                      Pete Haynes (410-592-6343)

Secretary                      Allison Funkhouser (443-840-0739)

Head Ushers

Organist                      Kay Kearns

# Call to Worship

Rise, now, in body or spirit,  
and join with me in the Call to Worship  
found on the back of your bulletin.

*(pause until all are ready)*

One: Listen to your thirst, my sisters and brothers!  
God is calling us today.

**All: *In a parched place, and in a barren desert;  
we long to see the face of God.***

One: Come to fresh, clear waters and crystal streams.  
Buy wine for free, and milk that has no price tag.

**All: *Why do we labor for that which isn't bread,  
and work like dog  
for things that can never satisfy the soul?***

One: God says, "Search for me while there is still a  
window of hope. Call on me while there is time."

**All: *Let us call on the One who can satisfy the soul.  
Let us sing for joy to the Lord of Life, and praise  
the One who sends rain in the wilderness!***

by Paula Bowser, Englewood, Ohio  
(based on Isaiah 55)  
© 2016 Brethren Press.

Join in the hymn,  
"All beautiful the march of days"  
#159

# Unison Prayer

Remain standing,  
and join in our Unison Prayer,  
#686 in our hymnal.

*(pause until all are ready)*

O God, you are my God.  
I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you  
as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
So will I bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name. AMEN

Psalm 63:1-4, adapted from NRSV

Please be seated.

# Offertory Thought and Prayer over the Gifts

Consider the beauty of the frost on the fields and the intricate patterns in snow and ice. Who is like the One we worship? Is anything too good for our God? Come before the Creator with an offering. Come. Bring a gift that is worthy of his name.

Please pray with me.

Lord, help us to give with a sweet spirit of gratitude and grace. Like rain and snow, may our gifts bear fruit in the kingdom of God and inspire others to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Ushers?

by Paula Bowser, Englewood, Ohio  
(based on Isaiah 55)  
© 2016 Brethren Press.

# 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Listen to what the apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the church in Corinth. I will be reading from the paraphrase known as *The Message*. (pause)

<sup>1-5</sup> Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.

<sup>6-10</sup> The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with 23,000 deaths in one day! We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of poisonous snakes. We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them.

<sup>11-12</sup> These are all warning markers—danger!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

<sup>13</sup> No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

# Litany of Confession

These words are an invitation to a life of repentance, turning toward God daily, realizing that, as Paul wrote, “we are just as capable of messing it up as they were.” It is appropriate that we follow this invitation with a “Litany of Confession.” Toward the back of your hymnal, you’ll find #691. Please turn there now and join me in this responsive prayer.

*(pause until all are ready)*

Leader: Almighty God, Spirit of purity and grace  
whose dwelling is with the humble  
and contrite heart,  
hear your children's confession of sin  
and grant us mercy.  
For all that has been evil in our lives;  
for unholy thoughts and impure motives,  
for any scorn of goodness, trifling with truth,  
and indifference to beauty,  
for being petty when  
we could have been gracious,

**People: forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For lack of love toward you,  
whose love has never failed;  
for doubt in your providence,  
for acts of ingratitude,  
and for disobedience to visions  
we have been able to see,

**People: forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For the wrong we have done our neighbors;  
for silence in the face of war,  
for neglect of charity and failure in justice,  
for forgetfulness of other's pain,  
and for advantage taken of another's weakness,

**People: forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For our faulty following of the Master;  
our slow faith in his power to save,  
our timid, hesitant answers  
to his call of service,  
our insensibility to the meaning of the cross;  
for all that mars our discipleship  
and makes it difficult  
for others to believe in him,

**People: forgive us, O God.**

Leader: May God, who is almighty and merciful  
forgive our sins,  
empower us to overcome temptation,  
and enable us to love as Jesus loved.

**People: AMEN**

Hymnal #691 - adapted from a litany of repentance,  
Edward K. Ziegler, *The Adventurous Future*,  
ed. Paul H. Bowman, © 1959 Brethren Press.

# Prayer of the People

722

As the people share their joy or concern, when you hear a name (like “Pray for **Bill Bowman**”), write that name on a 3 by 5 card. After the sharing, while the congregation sings a hymn, we will divide up the names, so that each of you has several of them, **to be read in the prayer** (below).

Leader: Merciful God,  
your love for us makes us bold to join our prayers  
with all who need your help.

We bring our prayers to you:

**[The youth read off the names mentioned  
during the joys and concerns, one at a time.  
DON'T READ FAST! Pause between each  
as you pass the microphone.]**

For those who suffer pain;  
For those who struggle with limits of body & soul;  
For those who are satisfied with less than the life  
for which they were created;  
For those who know their guilt and their need  
but do not know of Jesus;  
For those who know that they must shortly die  
and for those who cannot wait to die.

***ALL: Come, Redeeming God,  
take all these sufferings upon yourself  
and transform them.***

***Be merciful also to us, who offer these prayers,  
so that we might enter the sufferings of others  
and become agents of your healing love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN***

# Unison Benediction to each other

Isaiah 55:12

*“You shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”*