

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

January 15, 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

Epiphany – a time of Calling

Two disciples (of John)... followed Jesus. When he turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?" They said, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see." So they went... (John 1:35b-39a)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) "I sought the Lord" 506

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

*Opening Prayer Meghan Knight

*Hymn "Wonderful grace of Jesus" 150

*Words of Thanksgiving 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Invitation to a Pot Luck

Words from the Prophet Isaiah 49:1-7

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

Hymn "This little light of mine" 401

Pastoral Prayer

Words from the Song/Prayer Book of the Bible Psalm 40:1-11

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

The Gospel John 1:29-42

Response "Come and see" 20

Message "*The power of one*"

*Hymn "Lord, speak to me" 499

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

Call to Worship

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

P - Our Call to Worship is the first three verses of 1 Corinthians. Listen.

M - *From Paul,*

P - You remember Paul, don't you? A good portion of our New Testament is attributed to his pen.

M - *Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and from Sosthenes our brother.*

P - Okay, I'm drawing a blank on who this Sosthenes fellow is. No doubt those who first received this letter knew him, and considered him a friend.

M - *To God's church that is in Corinth:*

P - Yes, these are ancient words addressed to a congregation located not far from Athens in what is today the nation of Greece. The question is: will we this morning hear them speaking to us, along with the rest of the scriptures?

M - *To those who have been made holy to God in Christ Jesus, who are called to be God's people.*

P - Made holy? Most days we feel much less. Called by God? Well, you are here right now. You must have heard something that got you out of bed and brought you here, for you are in this place

M - *Together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place—he's their Lord and ours!*

P - With God's people around this globe, we look to Jesus as our servant leader. So, please **rise in body or spirit** right now for these ancient words of blessing that begin this service of worship:

M - *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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Opening Prayer

(to be written by Worship Leader)

Remain standing and let us sing of the
"Wonderful grace of Jesus,"
#150 in your hymnal

Words of Thanksgiving

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Remain standing, for the next words from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, you are going to speak to each other. Be prepared to turn around as you speak, right where you are, so that you won't be addressing the same person. Instead, we will speak this together to all of us. I will read a phrase which you will repeat. However, don't just "say" the words, "speak" them from the heart to each other. Does this make sense? ... Let's begin. Repeat after me:

*I thank my God always for you,
because of God's grace
that was given to you
in Christ Jesus.*

*That is, you were made rich
through him in everything:
in all your communication
and every kind of knowledge,
in the same way
that the testimony about Christ
was confirmed with you.*

*The result is that
you aren't missing
any spiritual gift
while you wait for our Lord
Jesus Christ to be revealed.
He will also confirm
your testimony about Christ
until the end
so that you will be blameless*

*I thank...
because of...
(etc.)*

*on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
and you were called by him
to partnership with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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Please be seated.

Invitation to a Pot Luck

After Sunday School next week we'll have a covered dish meal, also known as a "pot luck," tho' some are not as enamored with that phrase. It is derived from Native American tribes in the Pacific northwest who periodically hold large meals they call "potlaches." Blessed is the home that has enough plates and other ware for a large gathering.

It seems we often need an excuse for a pot luck here in Long Green. With everyone bringing in food, you'd think it would require little work, but there is actually **a lot** of preparation and clean-up involved. Someone needs to arrange the room and tables, and heat up and place last minute items brought by others. Someone needs to clean up the fellowship hall and kitchen afterward. To be honest, this job seems to fall on **the same few people**.

If you think that pot lucks are an important part of our life together, would you be willing to volunteer to help out with preparation and clean-up? A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Many hands, they say, make light work. Next week provides an opportunity. We are inviting our brothers and sisters from the Dundalk CoB to join us for worship, Sunday School, and this Pot Luck.

Today, they are celebrating the life of their congregation, after which they will disband as a church. A new church will be born, we pray, later this year, but it will not be the same old, same old. We are welcoming here any Dundalk folks who wish to join us. They may

come every week or periodically. They may stop coming here at a certain point and join in the new church when it starts, or they may remain with us. Regardless, we will welcome them. By the way, they came as guests to our thanksgiving meal, and were quite impressed. I invite you to share our hospitality again, that our church home may be their church home, even if for a short while... At least, it's a good excuse for a pot luck. Blessed is the home that has enough plates and other ware for a large gathering.

For now, let's turn to some words from the prophet Isaiah...

Words from the Prophet

Isaiah 49:1-7

(As the Worship leader reads the following, the Pastor quietly sets up a lamp on a stand down in the center aisle, then lights a candle in holder - like at Christmas eve - from the Christ candle and stands next to the lamp. If appropriate, motion to young person in pew to come and hold the candle, ready to do the next step below)

- ¹ *Listen to me, coastlands;
pay attention, peoples far away.
The LORD called me before my birth,
called my name when I was in my mother's womb.*
- ² *He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
and hid me in the shadow of God's own hand.
He made me a sharpened arrow,
and concealed me in God's quiver,
saying to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I show my glory."*
- ³ *But I said, "I have wearied myself in vain.
I have used up my strength for nothing."
Nevertheless, the LORD will grant me justice;
my reward is with my God.*
- ⁴ *And now the LORD has decided—
the one who formed me from the womb
as his servant—
to restore Jacob to God,
so that Israel might return to him.
Moreover, I'm honored in the LORD's eyes;
my God has become my strength.*
- ⁵ *He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the survivors of Israel.
Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nations*

(pause reading as pastor – or young person – lights the lamp on a stand and return to their seat. Let it flicker a moment with all eyes upon it, then return to reading)

*I will also appoint you as light to the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*

⁷ *The LORD, redeemer of Israel and its holy one,
says to one despised,
rejected by nations,
to the slave of rulers:
Kings will see and stand up;
commanders will bow down
on account of the LORD, who is faithful,
the holy one of Israel,
who has chosen you.*

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Words from the Song/Prayer Book of the Bible

Psalm 40:1-11

Pete:

¹ *I put all my hope in the LORD.
He leaned down to me;
he listened to my cry for help.*

² *He lifted me out of the pit of death,
out of the mud and filth,
and set my feet on solid rock.
He steadied my legs.*

Meghan:

³ *He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise for our God.
Many people will learn of this and be amazed;
they will trust the LORD.*

⁴ *Those who put their trust in the LORD,
who pay no attention to the proud
or to those who follow lies,
are truly happy!*

Pete:

⁵ *You, LORD my God!
You've done so many things—
your wonderful deeds and your plans for us—
no one can compare with you!
If I were to proclaim and talk about all of them,
they would be too numerous to count!*

Meghan:

⁶ *You don't relish sacrifices or offerings;
you don't require entirely burned offerings
or compensation offerings—
but you have given me ears!*

⁷ *So I said, "Here I come!
I'm inscribed in the written scroll.*

⁸ *I want to do your will, my God.
Your Instruction is deep within me."*

Pete:

⁹ *I've told the good news of your righteousness
in the great assembly.
I didn't hold anything back—
as you well know, LORD!*

¹⁰ *I didn't keep your righteousness only to myself.
I declared your faithfulness and your salvation.
I didn't hide your loyal love and trustworthiness
from the great assembly.*

Meghan:

¹¹ *So now you, LORD—
don't hold back any of your compassion from me.
Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me.*

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Pete:

A song, a prayer from the book of Psalms, ancient words that still sing and speak what we often find difficult to say out loud. We could do worse than to turn to this portion of the Bible every day.

Meghan:

As the Psalmist says, God doesn't *relish sacrifices or offerings*, or *require entirely burned offerings*. God has, however, *given us ears!* ... So, as you return your offering just now, perk up these God-given ears. Gospel is coming! The Good News is right around the bend.

Ushers?

The Gospel

John 1:29-42

N – Narrator, B – John the Baptist, A – Andrew,
J – Jesus, P – Peter

[N reads from the pulpit, B stands in front of the piano, A is beside/behind him, J sits in pew over by the organ ready to rise, P sits somewhere along center aisle.]

- N - We turn now to our reading from the Gospel of John. We do not hear in this account the actual baptism of Jesus, it is only inferred when representatives from the religious authorities in Jerusalem question John the Baptist. He tells them:
- B - *“I am not the Messiah ... I am but a voice crying out in the wilderness - Make the Lord’s path straight...”*
- N - And so we come to today’s reading. Listen: (pause)
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
- B - *“Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.’ Even I didn’t recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel.”*
- N - *John testified,*
- B - *“I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. Even I didn’t recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit*

coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

N - *The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus walking along he said,*

B - *"Look! The Lamb of God!"*

N - *The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.*

(A walks over to J)

N - *When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked,*

J - *"What are you looking for?"*

N - *They said,*

A - *"Rabbi*

N - *(which is translated Teacher),*

A - *where are you staying?"*

N - *He replied,*

J - *"Come and see."*

N - *So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. He first found his own brother Simon*

(A goes to P, who rises from the pew)

N - *and said to him,*

A - *"We have found the Messiah"*

N - (which is translated *Christ*). He led him to Jesus.

(A & P go to J)

N - *Jesus looked at him and said,*

J - *"You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas"*

N - *(which is translated **Peter**)...* The Gospel.

P - The Gospel.

A - The Gospel.

B - The Gospel.

N - (motions for everyone to say) The Gospel.

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Benediction

All it took

was one voice in the wilderness speaking out
to open up a path to something new.

And a simple nudge: “Look!”

launched two to seek.

And a question, “What are you looking for?”

and an invitation: “Come and see”

led one brother to draw his sibling
into the light.

All I can I can say as you head into this week, is this:

Rock on!

There is power in simple acts, one on one.

Remember, Jesus is there!