

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

January 29, 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 Blessing

*“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain.
He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them...”
(Matthew 5:1, Contemporary English Version)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “What does the Lord require” (insert)

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship Psalm 15 (from the *Laughing Bird* version)

*Hymn “With happy voices singing” 83

*Opening Prayer

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

Hymn “Lord, listen to your children praying” 353

Pastoral Prayer

Speaking God’s prophet Micah 6:6-8 753

Singing God’s prophet “What does the Lord require” (insert)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Real Blessing Matthew 5:1-12

Message “*The foolishness of blessing*”

Hymn “O how blessed are the poor in spirit” (insert)

Real Wisdom ~~1 Corinthians 1:18-31~~ (from *The Message*)

Invitation

Passing the Bread

Responsive Prayer 785a

Eating Together

Passing the Cup

Responsive Prayer 785b

Drinking Together

*Singing our Blessing “Go, my children” 433

*Speaking our Blessing

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/201/17-01-29.mp3

Call to Worship

Psalm 15

1 - Terri, 2 - Pete

Pete:

We begin worship this day with the 15th Psalm, as paraphrased by a Baptist pastor in Melbourne, Australia. The words call us to be real with God. Please rise and listen...

- 1 - *LORD, who is welcome at your table?*
- 2 - *Who can stay in the place you call your own?*
- 1 - *You have given us the answer, LORD.*
- 2 - *It is those who walk with integrity
and do the right thing;*
- 1 - *those who speak the honest truth
and do not use their words to wound;*
- 2 - *those who do not exploit their friends
or put down their neighbors.*
- 1 - *It is those who hate corruption and look up
to those who honor you, LORD;*
- 2 - *those who give their word and stand by it
even if it costs them;*
- 1 - *those who lend freely, without seeking a profit,
and cannot be bribed into shafting the innocent.*
- 2 - *You honor such people, LORD, and anchor them
on unshakable ground.*

Terri:

Happiness can be a fleeting emotion, but when God gracefully anchors us *on unshakable ground*, we can't help but be joyful... Plant your feet and lift up your voice, brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's sing together #83, the words of which are both in your hymnal and on the screen.

[“With happy voices singing” - Hymnal #83]

Opening Prayer

O God, your handiwork is all around, blessing us in a multitude of ways. We don't have to step outside on a starry night to be filled with wonder, or stand before some great mountain to be in awe. So often, Lord, it is in the smallest of things that we behold your glory ... and we are blessed.

Thank you.

You have drawn us to this place and time. We dare to imagine ourselves at your table, a feast spread before us. Your "Word" we call "our daily bread." And there is plenty for everyone. As we eat the spiritual food you provide, however, we confess that we are not all that you would have us be. Not really. Our integrity is questionable at times. The honest truth is not always upon our lips. All-too-easily we can put down others, with words or actions, even those closest to us. When wounded, we hit back. Or worse, we sometimes inflict a pre-emptive strike of pain. Thus, we question whether we are really welcome at your table...

If not for the One who said, "*this is my body, broken for you,*" we would quietly walk away. And yet, in Christ Jesus we behold your arms open wide, and we are embraced beyond forgiveness with a Love that knows no boundaries ... and we are blessed.

Thank you.

So, bless this time. May we be more aware of your presence. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Help these feet to follow Jesus, whom we call our Teacher, our Savior, our Friend. It is in his name that we pray to you, Holy God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Speaking God's prophet

From the book of Psalms, we turn to the words of the prophet Micah. We will both speak and sing this passage of scripture, passed down to us through many generations.

Now, you can either turn to the back of your hymnal to #753, or follow along on the screen. Likewise, you will find the music to the song, "What does the Lord require," on your bulletin insert. The words will be on the screen. Some of us sang this before the service.

The responsive reading begins with "All" of us. Shall we speak the words of God's prophet together?

ALL: *With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?*

People: **Shall I come before God with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?**

Leader: Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

People: **Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

ALL: *God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Hymnal #753
Micah 6:6-8

adapted from the *New Revised Standard Version*

Singing God's prophet

What does the Lord require

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It is divided into two parts. Part 1 consists of two staves of music. The first staff has four measures with chords D, A, Bm, and F#m. The second staff has four measures with chords G, D, A7, and D. Part 2 also consists of two staves. The first staff has four measures with chords D, A, Bm, and F#m. The second staff has four measures with chords G, D, A7, and D. A unison section follows, with a single staff of music and chords Em, F#m, Em7, F#m, and A7. The lyrics are: "What does the Lord require of thee but jus - tice and ten - der - ness and hum - il - i - ty. Do just - ly, love ten - der - ly, walk hum - bly be - fore thy God." Three alternative lyrics are provided at the bottom: 1. Come to God's pres - ence with praise and thanks - giv - ing. 2. Jus - tice will flow like an un - fail - ing riv - er. 3. God's stead - fast love lasts for - ev - er and ev - er.

part 1

D A Bm F#m

What does the Lord re quire of thee but

G D A7 D

jus - tice and ten - der - ness and hum - il - i - ty.

part 2

D A Bm F#m

Do just - ly, love ten - der - ly,

G D A7 D

walk hum - bly be - fore thy God.

Unison

Em F#m Em7 F#m A7

1. Come to God's pres - ence with praise and thanks - giv - ing.
2. Jus - tice will flow like an un - fail - ing riv - er.
3. God's stead - fast love lasts for - ev - er and ev - er.

©1985 Michael E. Stern
based on Micah 6:8

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

What does the Lord require of us?

We just spoke the answer, and then sang it.

God wants us to not just talk about **justice**,
but to actually **do** it.

Kindness must also be important to God,
for we are to **love** it.

And **humility** – being humble,
grounded,
unpretentious,

not proud, haughty, nor arrogant.

Not “me first,”

but able to care for others first.

God wants us to “**walk**” humility.

That’s what the prophet Micah says.

Okay, as you return your offering,

think about what it might mean for you this week

to walk humbly with God,

to love kindness, and

to do justice.

Ushers?

O how blessed are the poor in spirit



1. O how blessed are the poor in spir - it, theirs is the King - dom of
2. O how blessed are the meek and hum - ble, they will in - her - it the
3. O how blessed are the mer - cy giv - ers, such mer - cy they will re -
4. O how blessed are the true peace - mak - ers, they will be known as God's



Heav - en. And how blessed are the sad and mourn - ful,
earth. And how blessed those who hun - ger for good - ness,
ceive. And how blessed are the pure in heart,
child - ren. And how blessed those who suf - fer for jus - tice,



Refrain
they'll be con - soled by God. Blessed and hap - py
they all will feast with God.
they sure - ly will see God.
they will be hon - ored by God.



we shall be. Lis - ten to the Mas - ter's word! Soon the king - dom's com - ing,



Watch and see: the king - dom of the Lord!

Responsive Prayer

Hymnal #785a

Leader: Blessed are you, O God.
You made bread to strengthen us.
You set aside this bread
as a sign of your Son's broken body.
In breaking it, may we participate
in the reconciliation of Christ.

**People: May Christ's body be the bread of our souls,
to give us strength
to continue our pilgrimage,
being made worthy
to sit with all the redeemed
at the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

*ALL: Hear us, O God, through our mediator,
Jesus Christ. AMEN*

Eating Together

Passing the Cup

Responsive Prayer

Hymnal #785b

Leader: Blessed are you, O God.
You made the vine to strengthen us.
You set aside this cup
as a sign of your Son's shed blood.
In drinking the cup,
may we participate in the blood of Christ.

**People: May Christ's blood make us strong
to drink the cup of suffering
without complaint, for Jesus' sake,
in the hope that we shall drink new wine
in your kingdom.**

*ALL: Hear us, O God, for the sake
of your eternal love. AMEN*

Hymnal #785
by Reinhard Rahusen, 18th c.
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Drinking Together

*Singing our Blessing "Go, my children"

433

Speaking our Blessing

You are blessed by God today.
You didn't "earn" this blessing.
Like grace, God gives it freely.
Live out this blessing!