

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

May 28, 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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10-11)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Holy Spirit, Truth divine” 508

Announcements

Prelude “Meditation” Handel

Drawn in by song “These are the days” (*refrain only*) insert

*Call to Worship Psalm 68:1-10 *Laughing Bird* version

*Hymn “In Christ there is no East or West” 306

*Opening Prayer Psalm 68:32-35 *Laughing Bird* version

Scripture in Action Acts 1:6-11

Response (*vs. 2 & 4*) “Rejoice, the Lord is King!” 288

Scripture in Action Acts 1:12-14

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

Hymn “There is a place of quiet rest” 5

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Message “*Anonymous*”

Hymn (*vs. 2-4*) “How firm a foundation” 567

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video “Jesus’ prayer from John 17”
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

*Sent forth by song “These are the days” insert

*Benediction

*Postlude “Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah” Williams/Hughes

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

These are the days

Ken Medema

refrain:

These are the days for learn - ing and for lov - ing.

These are the days to risk and take a chance.

These are the days for wak - ing and for work - ing.

These are the days to dream and dare and dance.

refrain by Ken Medema
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message to be posted at

www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-05-28.mp3

Call to Worship

1 - On this last Sunday of the season of Easter, we begin our worship with the words of the Psalmist, as paraphrased by the Australian *Laughing Bird* version. Let your body and spirit rise up on this rising day...

(motion for all to stand).... Now listen:

(pause)

2 - *Up and at it, God; scatter your enemies, send those who hate you packing.*

1 - *Blow them away like smoke in the wind; melt them like wax under a blowtorch. Wipe out all corruption, God.*

2 - *But for those who do the right thing, God, give them every reason to celebrate. Set them singing and dancing with joy!*

1 - *Every mention of your name sets us singing your praises, God.*

2 - *We lift our song as you ride the clouds.*

1 - *We name you as LORD and celebrate in your presence.*

2 - *To the orphans, you are a loving parent;*

1 - *to the needy and vulnerable, you are a caring protector;*

2 - *from your sacred home you provide care to all.*

1 - *You give a home to those with nowhere to go, God;*

2 - *you set the prisoners free and turn everything they touch to gold;*

1 - *but the good times dry up for those who turn against you.*

2 - *O God, you took the lead and showed the way when your people set out across the harsh desert.*

1 - *The earth shuddered at your approach; one look from you and the clouds let go of their rain.*

2 - *You were with us, God of the mountain; you were with us, God of Israel.*

1 - *You showered us with life-giving rain - restoring fertility to your weary land.*

2 - *You settled your people in good pasture, God, and provided generously to all in need.*

(pause)

1 - Remain standing and join your voice in singing: "In Christ there is no East or West," #306 in the hymnal, the words also projected on the screen.

Psalm 68:1-10 from the *Laughing Bird* version
©2001 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

Opening Prayer

With every nation on earth, we sing to you, God;
you are our Lord, and we sing your praises.
You have been riding the heavens since ancient times,
and your voice booms out with the sound of thunder.
All power belongs to you, God;
you reign over your people in splendor,
and your power is written in the skies.
Stepping into your presence, we are struck with awe.
You are our God;
our strength and energy are gifts from you.
May you be number one forever, God! AMEN

Psalm 68: 32-35 from the *Laughing Bird* version
©2001 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

Scripture in Action
Acts 1:6-11

(Pete:)

Now, even though in my excitement to arrive at the birthday of the church, I made the mistake last week of saying today would be Pentecost, it is not. That's next week, when we'll celebrate the promised coming of the Holy Spirit, reading from the second chapter of Acts.

(Meghan:)

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, it's appropriate that we read from the chapter right before it. Here we find Jesus ready to depart, to physically leave his disciples, so that new life in the Spirit might be born among God's people. Let's put this scripture into action... Acts 1:6-11 ... Listen.

(Pete:)

⁶ So when they had come together,

“they” – that is, the disciples of Jesus. We need some disciples. Are there any disciples of Jesus in this room, any followers of the risen Christ? ... Well, then, I need some of you to come forward to help put this scripture into action.

(get as many as possible to come forward, then place them creatively, getting 2 volunteers willing to read, one as a disciple, and one daring to be Jesus.)

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him,

(hand the following to the “disciple” with a mic)



“Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He replied,

(hand this to “Jesus” with the same mic)



“It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Pete:)

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

(Get them all looking up. Exaggerate, palm to forehead, squinting eyes, the whole nine yards. Be playful)

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

(The worship leader, who is 1. just one person, 2. not male, 3. nor dressed in white - and is somewhat vertically challenged – steps up with her own microphone. Look at her quizzically & make silly motions, to which she responds:)

Listen - what you see is what you get!

(Pete:)

Okay, *¹¹ They ... he ... she said,*

(Meghan:)

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

(Immediately, the organist launches into the intro to

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

#288, and everyone responds with verses 2 & 4)

Handouts:

Scripture in Action

Acts 1:12-14

Disciple:

“Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Jesus:

“It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(after #288, verses 2 & 4 are sung, Pete reads:)

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.

Thank you, disciples of Jesus. Return to where you were.

(when the “disciples” and Pete have returned to their seats, Meghan continues:)

¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Hymn - “There is a place of quiet rest” - #5

Pastoral Prayer

(composed and prayed in the moment)

Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

“Fear not I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid...”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply...”

Those hymn verses, speaking God’s promises from Isaiah and others, are like one half of a conversation, addressed to the people of God. In the gospel of John, chapter 17, Jesus makes it a two-way street, praying back to God on our behalf...

We have the opportunity just now to respond to the good news of this morning’s message with our monetary offerings. Remember, these are but one way of continuing the conversation, of responding to God’s goodness with our Holy Spirit-empowered good works and words.

As we do so, let’s pay attention to Jesus’ prayer in John 17 along with the music and background of our offertory video.

Ushers?

Offertory Video

“Jesus’ prayer from John 17”

<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/jesus-said-these-things>

These are the days

Ken Medema

refrain:

These are the days for learn - ing and for lov - ing.

These are the days to risk and take a chance.

These are the days for wak - ing and for work - ing.

These are the days to dream and dare and dance.

1. How
5. "The

firm a found - a - tion, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose, I will not, I

faith in God's ex - cel-lent Word! What more can he say than to you he has will not de - sert to its foes. That soul, tho' all hell should en - deav-or to

said, to you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled? shake, I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

- 1 - Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.
- 2 - For the God of all grace has called you to eternal glory through Jesus Christ,
- 1 - And will fulfill,
- 2 - restore,
- 1 - strengthen,
- 2 - and establish you
- 1 - through suffering and struggle.
- 2 - Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ's love,
- 1 - with Christ's name on your lips,
- 2 - with the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,
- 1 - with God's love in your hearts,
- 2 - with God's beloved ones always in your sight,
- 1 - and with God's still speaking voice in your ear.
- 2 - Amen.

refrain by Ken Medema
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author of verses unknown
American folk melody

adapted from a benediction written by Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Imlay, MI and Southeast Area Minister of the Michigan Conference, UCC from Worship Ways (UCC)

<https://youtu.be/jBPAGb77AkY>