

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 2, 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

Graduate Sunday

So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” (Genesis 22:14)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Here in this place” 6

Announcements

Prelude

The Gospel in song “Lord of the Dance” *(insert)*

*Call to Worship Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 *(from The Message)*

*Hymn “Holy, holy, holy!” 120

*Opening Prayer

Confession and Assurance *(insert)*

Recognizing our Graduates Jason Eilers and Kinger Nwaehiri

A Franciscan Blessing *(respond, when directed, with “Amen”)*

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

Hymn “We walk by faith” 570

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Matthew 10:40-42 *(CEV)*

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Video “Hands”
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Hymn “Obey my voice” 163

Scripture Genesis 22:1-14

Message “*Life on the Edge*”

Scripture Hebrews 11:1, 17-19, 12:1-2 *(CEV)*

*Hymn “Be thou my vision” 545

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

message to be posted at
www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-07-02.mp3

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or spirit.

- 1 - *Your love, God, is my song, and I'll sing it! I'm forever telling everyone how faithful you are. I'll never quit telling the story of your love- how you built the cosmos and guaranteed everything in it. Your love has always been our lives' foundation, your fidelity has been the roof over our world.*
- 2 - *You once said, "I joined forces with my chosen leader, I pledged my word to my servant, David, saying, 'Everyone descending from you is guaranteed life; I'll make your rule as solid and lasting as rock.'"*
- 1 - *Blessed are the people who know the passwords of praise, who shout on parade in the bright presence of God.*
- 2 - *Delighted, they dance all day long; they know who you are, what you do - they can't keep it quiet!*
- 1 - *Your vibrant beauty has gotten inside us - you've been so good to us!*
- 2 - *We're walking on air! All we are and have we owe to God, Holy God of Israel, our King!*

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 from *The Message*,
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2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson

Remain standing and let us sing "Holy, holy, holy!" #120

Opening Prayer

- 1 - Faithful God,
- 2 - Lord of the dance,
- 1 - Holy God,
- 2 - merciful and mighty,
- 1 - our song begins with your love.
- 2 - We have gathered yet again to tell your story,
- 1 - which becomes our story,
- 2 - and to sing your song,
- 1 - to which we add our harmony,
- 2 - which flows from your Spirit.
- 1 - Your vibrant beauty has gotten inside us,
- 2 - and our praise is but one way it rises to the surface.
- 1 - May the way we live reflect your glory,
- 2 - not just in this hour,
- 1 - but throughout the week ahead.
- 2 - This we pray in the name of the One
- 1 - who sets us free to dance your dance.
- 2 - Jesus Christ.
- 1 - Amen!
- 2 - Amen!

Please be seated.

Confession and Assurance

It is not easy following Jesus. To “believe” is to trust in the Lord as completely as possible, and live out your faith, not just speak it. To be honest, however, being a disciple is a work in progress. We stumble and fall along the way... A lot!... But, by faith, we pick ourselves up – with God’s help – and keep on keeping on. Confession is the act of turning to God when we know we’ve messed up, and being assured that the Lord provides the way.

With that in mind, let’s do some turning right now.
Join in this prayerful confession...

One: Regretfully but sincerely, loving God, we confess that we don’t often live in the style of Jesus;

All: Too readily we adjust to the values and attitudes of the rest of the community; sometimes there is nothing distinctive or winsome about us.

One: Regretfully, loving God, we confess that we do not make the most of our faith;

All: In the times we have to ourselves in this busy life, we do not make space for reflection and prayer; we leave you at the edges instead of embracing your at the centre of our days.

One: Regretfully, loving God, we confess that we have looked for you in remarkable people and spectacular events;

All: Yet we have ignored you in the ordinary circumstances, in ordinary friends and neighbours, and in ordinary church members.

One: Regretfully, loving God, we confess that we have not been very fair to ourselves;

All: We have hidden our gifts behind false modesty, withheld strengths lest others expect a lot from us, and been too afraid that our faith may be mocked if expressed openly.

One: Regretfully, loving God, we unfold our lives before you.

All: Please forgive and expunge the things that are sloppy, unloving or rotten. Please mend the things that are torn or distorted or fractured. Please rehabilitate that soul-image of yourself that exists in each of us, and give us the desire and the will and the strength to make a good fist of living by faith in this new week.

One: In the name of Christ Jesus our Savior, we pray.
Amen!

Forgiveness

One: In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I ask you to accept God’s saving love, putting your sins and mistakes behind you, and letting go of regrets and fears. Now face the future with the measured optimism of those who know they are destined to ultimate victory. By saving love you are released; you are at liberty!

All: Thanks be to God!

Recognizing our Graduates

Indeed, thanks be to God!
Jason and Kinger, please come forward.

I can remember the day you each stepped into the life of this congregation. You both were quite a few inches shorter back then. We weren't your first community of faith, and we pray that we won't be your last. There is much more to be written in the story of your life, and we are glad that we have been a part of it. Recently, you graduated from high school, one of you from *Joppatowne*, and the other from *Catonsville*.

Congratulations!

Now, your next steps may be known, or still to be determined, but we'd like to give you the opportunity to share about your graduation, or what you know about the road ahead of you. Where might you go from here?

(nudge each to share)

As you go forth, here is a small gift from us.

(Nurture chair presents these, adding any blessings she is led to share)

Finally, allow us to speak to you:

A Franciscan Blessing

(respond, when directed, with "Amen")

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

Amen.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

Amen.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

Amen.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

And the Blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love and pray for this day, and forever more.

Amen.

Author unknown

Matthew 10:40-42

Before sending his twelve disciples out on a “practice run,” sharing the good news, Jesus concluded his instructions with these words. Listen

(pause)

⁴⁰ Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet, will be given the same reward as a prophet. Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good, will be given the same reward as a good person. ⁴² And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will surely be rewarded.

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

It's a hot summer day and you step into a convenience store to grab something to quench your thirst. Arrayed before you are several glass doors, behind which are refrigerated bottles or cans of this soda or that tea, sometimes numbering over a hundred choices. And that is but the beginning of the cold beverage options available.

How, then, are we to hear this scripture about a simple cup of water? It's not Coke or Pepsi or Mountain Dew. It's not Snapple or Sobe or Nestea. It's just water, and not some fancy bottled brand imported from a clear mountain stream in Switzerland. It's simply a cup of water, drawn by hand from a well and thus colder than the above-ground temperature in a hot, dry land.

“*Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,*” Jesus said, and the giving or receiving of a simple cup of water takes on a different meaning as we consider that Jesus is in the middle of it all... As you return your offering, think about the simple act of drawing water from a well and freely sharing it with a stranger who then becomes a friend. Welcome Jesus with your gift.

Ushers?

Offertory Video

“Hands”

<https://youtu.be/XErd4U3ssol>

Obey my voice

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OBEY MY VOICE Irregular

O - bey my voice, and I will be your God, and
 ye shall be my peo - ple, and walk in
 all the ways I have com - mand - ed you, that it may be
 well with you and I will be your God. O - bey my
 voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall
 be my peo - ple.

Text: based on Jeremiah 7:23, KJV
 Music: Sheilagh Nowacki, 1970, *Festival of the Holy Spirit Song Book*, 1972
 Copyright ©1972 Sheilagh Nowacki

Genesis 22:1-14

- 1 - ¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"
- 2 - And he said, "Here I am."
- 1 - ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."
- 2 - ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.
- 1 - ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.
- 2 - ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."
- 1 - ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.
- 2 - So the two of them walked on together.
- 1 - ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!"
- 2 - And he said, "Here I am, my son."
- 1 - He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

2 - ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."

1 - So the two of them walked on together.

(pause reading)

(solo, with guitar:)

Obey my Voice

...in a minor key

O - bey my voice, and I will be your God, and
ye shall be my peo - ple, and walk in
all the ways I have com - mand - ed you, that it may be
well with you and I will be your God. O - bey my voice, and
I will be your God, and ye shall be my peo - ple.

based on the song "Obey my voice"
Copyright © 1972 Sheilagh Nowacki
CCLI #1347096

1 - He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

2 - ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

1 - ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

2 - And he said, "Here I am."

1 - ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

2 - ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns.

1 - Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

2 - ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

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2 - ⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order.

Hebrews 11:1, 17-19, 12:1-2

(right after the message)

¹ *Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see...*

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ *Abraham had been promised that Isaac, his only son, would continue his family. But when Abraham was tested, he had faith and was willing to sacrifice Isaac, ¹⁹ because he was sure that God could raise people to life. This was just like getting Isaac back from death...*

^{12:1} *Such a large crowd of witnesses (including Abraham and Isaac) is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. ² We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!*

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Benediction

May “the Blessing of God,
who Creates,
Redeems and
Sanctifies,
be upon you
and all you love
and pray for
this day, and forever more.”*

So, step out now, by faith...

*from “A Franciscan Blessing”
author unknown

Hymn

“Be thou my vision”

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