

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 16, 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

*“The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.” (Genesis 25:25-26a)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)                      “Seek ye first”                      324

Announcements

Prelude

A rising song                      “Alleluia”                      (see insert)

A rising Word                      Romans 8:1-6                      (Good News Bible)

\*A rising song                      “Alleluia”                      (see insert)

\*A rising Word                      Romans 8:10-11                      (Good News Bible)

\*A Doxology                      “Praise God from whom”                      119A

\*Open to God in Prayer

Living the Torah                      Psalm 119:105-112                      (Common English Bible)

Singing the Torah                      “Thy Word”                      (see insert)

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

Prayer Hymn                      “Precious Lord, take my hand”                      575

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel                      Matthew 13:1-9                      (The Message)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Gospel                      Matthew 13:18-23                      (The Message)

Response                      “Alleluia”                      (see insert)

Prayer

Focus                      Genesis 25:19-34                      (NRSV)

Message                      “In the soil of Isaac’s household”

\*Remember:                      “You are salt for the earth”                      226

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

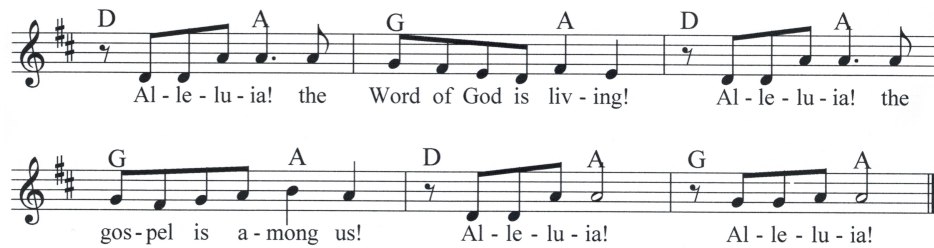
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message to be posted at  
[www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-07-16.mp3](http://www.lgvcob.org/sermons/2017/17-07-16.mp3)

Hymns chosen by Meghan Knight

A rising song

## Alleluia



by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan  
©2004 This Here Music  
CCLI #1347096

A rising Word

## Romans 8:1-6

- 1 - *There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.*
- 2 - *For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set us free from the law of sin and death.*
- 1 - *What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did.*
- 2 - *He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin.*
- 1 - *God did this so that the righteous demands of the Law might be fully satisfied in us who live according to the Spirit, and not according to human nature.*
- 2 - *Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants.*

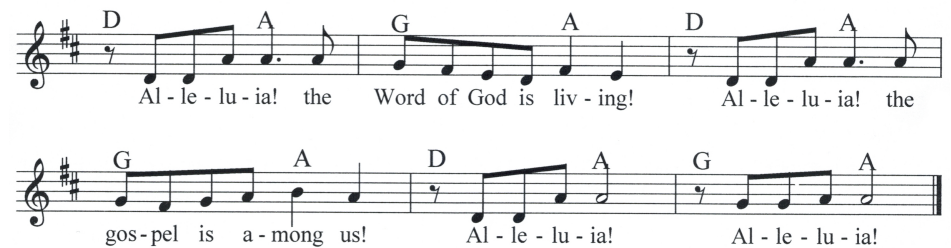
- 1 - *Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants.*
- 2 - *To be controlled by human nature results in death;*
- 1 - *to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace.*

from the *Good News Translation* (GNT, aka TEV)  
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*(motion for people to rise)*

A rising song

## Alleluia



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A rising Word

## Romans 8:10-11

- 1 - *If Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin.*
- 2 - *If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.*

from the *Good News Translation* (GNT, aka TEV)  
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## Praise God from whom

OLD HUNDREDTH 88. 88

A Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
B Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; in  
him all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove ye  
heav'n a - bove and earth be - low; one God three per - sons  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.  
we a - dore. To God be praise for - ev - er - more. A - men

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, we marvel at how open you are to us. You know us as we are. You understand all the ways we bring pain into our own lives. You see all the ways we bring pain into the lives of others. Yet you listen to us without judgment. You love us unconditionally. You accept us as beloved children.

Help us to be generous with ourselves. Help us to accept our own reality. Help us to love ourselves as you love us. And, then, may that love we learn from you, and extend to others, transform the relationships we have with our brothers and sisters. Amen.

by David Ourisman  
former pastor, then seminary professor  
now travel advisor [www.ourismantravel.com](http://www.ourismantravel.com)  
taken from *The Text this Week*  
[www.textweek.com/yeara%20/Ourisman.htm](http://www.textweek.com/yeara%20/Ourisman.htm)

Please be seated.

Living the Torah  
Psalm 119:105-112

(Pete:)

With 176 verses, Psalm 119 covers over 6 pages in my Bible. It's huge, and may seem "monotonous and boringly redundant," as it teaches the value of living out the Torah, the Law of God. As an acrostic poem, each section of this Psalm begins with a succeeding letter in the Hebrew alphabet. This morning's section begins with the Hebrew letter Nun, or N, which starts out the first word of verse 105, "Ner-leragli" (lamp - of my feet). The Torah, God's Word lights the way for feet to walk. Sometimes, the way is easy, and we are filled with gratitude. At other times, the journey is more difficult, and tears wet our steps. Be listening for both praise and lament as we read these 8 verses of Psalm 119.

(pause – 1 speaks brightly, 2 reads with a touch of complaint)

1 - *Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules.*

2 - *I have been suffering so much - Lord, make me live again according to your promise.*

1 - *Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!*

2 - *Though my life is constantly in danger, I won't forget your Instruction. Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won't stray from your precepts.*

1 - *Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy. I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.*

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Singing the Torah  
Thy Word

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is the refrain: 'Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.' The second staff contains two verses of lyrics. The third staff continues the lyrics. The fourth staff is the end of the piece, marked 'to refrain'.

refrain: Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

1. When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -  
2. I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is

side me. And noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.  
wan-der-ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to your side; and

Please be near me to the end.  
I will love you to the end.

words by Amy Grant  
based on Psalm 119:105  
music by Michael W. Smith  
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Bug & Bear Music.  
CCLI #1347096

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn - "Precious Lord, take my hand" - 575

Pastoral Prayer

*Gospel*  
**Matthew 13:1-9**

- 1 - *At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.*
- 2 - *“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.*
- 1 - *“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”*

*from The Message*  
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## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Ponder this parable as you return your offering.  
Please also sign the attendance pad and pass it on  
Ushers?

## Offertory Video

[youtu.be/V9IOhGPrRvY](https://youtu.be/V9IOhGPrRvY)

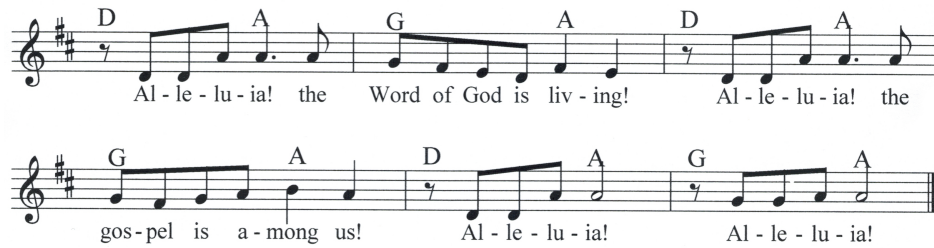
*Gospel*  
**Matthew 13:18-23**

- 1 - *“Study this story of the farmer planting seed,”*
- 2 - *Jesus later confided in his disciples, after explaining why he spoke so many parables.*
- 1 - *“When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.*
- 2 - *“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.*
- 1 - *“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.*
- 2 - *“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”*

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## Response Alleluia



by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan  
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## Prayer

Pray with me.

Dear God,  
please sow your seeds of love in us.

If our hearts become like stony ground,  
please soften them.

If our hearts are like busy footpaths,  
please save us from temptations.

If our hearts sprout with nestles and thistles,  
please clean out all such weeds.

When our hearts become like good, clean soil,  
please help us to harvest truth, kindness and happiness.

In the name of Jesus  
who planted and grew nothing but good seed.  
Amen!

# Genesis 25:19-34

- 1 - *These are the descendants of Isaac (I-zack), Abraham's son:*
- 2 - *Abraham was the father of Isaac,*
- 1 - *and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel (Beth-oo-el) the Aramean (Air-eh-me-an) of Paddan-aram (Pahd-en - ahr-em), sister of Laban (Lay-ben) the Aramean.*
- 2 - *Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren;*
- 1 - *and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.*
- 2 - *The children struggled together within her; and she said,*
- 1 - *"If it is to be this way, why do I live?"*
- 2 - *So she went to inquire of the Lord.*
- 1 - *And the Lord said to her,*
- 2 - *"Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger."*
- 1 - *When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.*
- 2 - *The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle;  
so they named him Esau (Ee-saw).*

- 1 - *Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.*
- 2 - *Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.*
- 1 - *When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field,*
- 2 - *while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.*
- 1 - *Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game;*
- 2 - *but Rebekah loved Jacob.*
- 1 - *Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob,*
- 2 - *"Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!"*
- 1 - *(Therefore he was called Edom.)*
- 2 - *Jacob said,*
- 1 - *"First sell me your birthright." Esau said,*
- 2 - *"I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said,*
- 1 - *"Swear to me first."*
- 2 - *So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.*
- 1 - *Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way.*
- 2 - *Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

# Benediction

The sower has tossed the kingdom seed in your soil.  
Even though it may not be the best ground around,  
may there be abundant growth  
in the garden of your life,  
of your family, and  
of this peculiar plot called  
“the church.”

By the grace of our God,  
the tending of the Holy Spirit, and  
the active guidance of Christ Jesus,  
let us rise up and yield our fruit.  
AMEN