

# Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

October 8, 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

*“Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.”*

(Philippians 3:13-14 from *The Message*)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” 71

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship                      Psalm 19                      (NRSV)

\*Hymn                      “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”                      37

\*Opening Prayer

From the Torah/Law                      Exodus 20:1-20                      (*Contemporary English Version*)

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer of Confession

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness & grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.                      (*followed by a few moments of Silence*)

Assurance of Pardon

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

Hymn                      “O Master, let me walk with thee”                      357

Prayer

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

From Good News Territory                      Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)

Message                      “*Stepping beyond thou shalt not*”

\*Hymn                      “Pressing on”                      (*see insert*)

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Rise in body or in spirit

\* \* \* \* \*

message to be posted at  
[rockhay.tripod.com/sermons](http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons)

# Call to Worship

(1 & 2 start in the back of the sanctuary, and read as they slowly walk forward on the outside aisles, ending up at the front, standing together at the bottom of the steps, facing the congregation)

- 1 - *The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*
- 2 - *Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.*
- 1 - *There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*
- 2 - *In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.*
- 1 - *Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.*
- 2 - *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;*
- 1 - *the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;*
- 2 - *the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;*
- 1 - *the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;*
- 2 - *the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;*
- 1 - *the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*
- 2 - *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;*

- 1 - *sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.*
- 2 - *Moreover by them is your servant warned;*
- 1 - *in keeping them there is great reward.*
- 2 - *But who can detect their errors?*
- 1 - *Clear me from hidden faults.*
- 2 - *Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.*
- 1 - *Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*
- 2 - *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

(pause)

- 1 - Please rise in body or spirit, and sing: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” Hymn #37.

Psalm 19 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

\*Hymn #37

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 37

LOBE DEN HERREN 14 14. 47. 8

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend  
 4 Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-  
 eth, shel-ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus-  
 thee. Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at-  
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be-

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to God's tem-ple draw  
 tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how thy heart's wish-es have  
 tend thee. Pon-der a - new what the Al - might - y can  
 fore him! Let the "a - men" sound from God's peo-ple a -

near. Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 do, as with his love he be - friends thee.  
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

Text: Joachim Neander, *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren, A und Ω Glaub- und Liebesübung*, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, *Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

Music: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665

# Opening Prayer

O God, author of eternal light  
 lead us in our worshipping this day:  
 that our lips may praise you,  
 our lives may bless you,  
 and our meditations glorify you,  
 through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Hymnal #673  
 from the *Sarum Missal*, 11<sup>th</sup> century

From the Torah/Law  
Exodus 20:1-20

- 1 - <sup>1</sup> *God said to the people of Israel:*
- 2 - <sup>2</sup> *I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.*
- 1 - <sup>3</sup> *Do not worship any god except me.*
- 2 - <sup>4</sup> *Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. <sup>5</sup> Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. <sup>6</sup> But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.*
- 1 - <sup>7</sup> *Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.*
- 2 - <sup>8</sup> *Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. <sup>9</sup> You have six days when you can do your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. <sup>11</sup> In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.*
- 1 - <sup>12</sup> *Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.*
- 2 - <sup>13</sup> *Do not murder.*
- 1 - <sup>14</sup> *Be faithful in marriage.*

2 - <sup>15</sup> *Do not steal.*

1 - <sup>16</sup> *Do not tell lies about others.*

2 - <sup>17</sup> *Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.*

(pause)

1 - <sup>18</sup> *The people trembled with fear when they heard the thunder and the trumpet and saw the lightning and the smoke coming from the mountain.*

2 - *They stood a long way off<sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, "If you speak to us, we will listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we will die!"*

1 - <sup>20</sup> *"Don't be afraid!" Moses replied. "God has come only to test you, so that by obeying him you won't sin."*

from the *Contemporary English Version*®  
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## Call to Reconciliation

We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them. Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive exactly what we need - forgiveness, grace, hope. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us! For this we'll use the Unison Prayer of Confession in your bulletin:

## Unison Prayer of Confession

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*(Silence is kept)*

## Assurance of Pardon

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Loved, we are sent to love;  
forgiven, we are freed to forgive;  
graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Call to Reconciliation, Confession and Pardon*  
all were written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman,  
currently interim Pastor at  
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.  
from: [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)

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

Hymn #357

“O Master, let me walk with thee”

# Prayer

The second verse to the hymn, “Come and Find the Quiet Center,” written by Shirley Elena Murray, offers these words:

“Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace.  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we’re shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.”\*

We are afraid of silence. So much of our world is claimed by noise and clamor. But here, in this place, we are called to let go, to let go of the noise, to let go of the anxiety and worry, to let go of our fears. Silence is truly a friend who claims us. Now for just a moment. Be in silence. Let the beating of your heart and the rhythm of your breathing be your focus. Put aside your worries. Focus on God.

*[silence]*

God of our lives, who offers to us peace in the silence, a moment apart from the demands and struggles of life, relax our spirits today. We have brought to you the names and situations which have claimed our worries and our attention. We come seeking healing for those who suffer, comfort for those who mourn, direction for the lost, and peace for all your people. We have brought our joys

and celebrations to you, thanking you for the many ways in which you have touched our lives with your love. Give us peace and strength for our service to this world in your name. AMEN.

adapted from Ministry Matters  
by Nancy C. Townley, an ordained elder  
in the United Methodist Church.

\*words to the hymn © 1992, 2005  
Hope Publishing Company

## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

In thanksgiving for God’s blessings to us, let us give of our treasure as an offering to God through the ministry of this church.

Ushers?

## Offertory

From Good News Territory

Philippians 3:4b-14

(NRSV)

Message

*“Stepping beyond thou shalt not”*

# Pressing On

based upon Philippians 3:8-16



1. When I re - joice I re - mem - ber my call - ing and  
 2. Not that I wish for my past to be worth - less, or  
 3. When I place Christ at the cen - ter of all things, the  
 4. God has first known me and call'd me to ser - vice to



all of the things that for God I have done.  
 that my re - li - gion will now be the best.  
 One who did emp - ty him - self is my Lord.  
 share in the spir - it of hu - mil - i - ty.



All my en - deav - ors, tho' each ben - e - fi - cial, could  
 All that I want is to know Christ the ser - vant, and  
 God's res - ur - rec - tion pow'r now is in my life but  
 On - ly be - cause Christ has first made me his own can



nev - er re - place what I've gained from God's Son.  
 like him to treat all the world as my guest.  
 it is not some - thing to grasp as re - ward.  
 I lay a - side my own self and be free.



1-3. In - deed, I count ev - ry - thing as loss be - cause of the  
 4. So now I press on t'ward the goal for the prize of the



sur - pass - ing worth of know - ing Christ Je - sus my Lord.  
 up - lift - ing call of God in Christ Je - sus my Lord.

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# Benediction

Go from this place today striving to keep God's laws.  
 Let all your words and thoughts  
 be as God would have them be,  
 and show the love of God in all you do and say.  
 Be kind yet brave in all your actions,  
 and fear not, for God is with you.  
 Amen.

by Beverly S. Bailey (in *SermonSuite*)  
 from *Lectionary Worship Workbook*