

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

March 18, 2018

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) "O God, who gives us life" 483

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Processional Song "Open the eyes of my heart" (insert)

*Prayer of Praise

Hymn (vs. 1-2) "Have thine own way" 504

Responsive Confession, part 1 (based upon Psalm 51) 690

Hymn (vs. 3-4) "Have thine own way" 504

Responsive Assurance, part 2 (based upon Psalm 51) 690

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

From the Prophets Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

Hymn "New earth, heavens new" 299

Prayer

The Gospel John 12:20-33

Message *"It's all Greek to me"*

*Hymn "Lift high the cross" 321

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *



sermon is posted at
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-03-18.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“O God, who gives us life”

- 1.
2. O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb;
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit
still is making all things new.
- 3.
4. O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.
5. O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.

Hymn #483
words by Carl P. Daw, jr. 1989
copyright © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.
music by Jonathan Shively
copyright © 1991

Announcements



Our next Bible study fellowship will focus upon Paul's letter to the Ephesians. We will use "*Ephesians: Reconciled in Christ*," a 10-session guide written by Donna Ritchey Martin, a pastor in our district. We'll meet for the first time on Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm, with 2 sessions a month. Let Pastor Pete know if you're interested, so we can purchase a copy for you ahead of time (\$11 donation appreciated, but not required).

After Sunday School on Palm Sunday (March 25) we will be gathering any singers who'd like to help, around the piano up front to record one or two verses to a number of familiar hymns. This will be used as part of Love Feast the following Thursday to guide our singing during footwashing, so that we pay attention to what we'll be doing instead of trying to find our place in the hymnal and reading the music. All are invited to help, regardless of their singing ability.



among others

Prelude

Call to Worship

- M - A word from the prayer and song book of the Bible to begin this hour's worship. Listen...
- M - *How can young people keep their way pure?*
- P - *By guarding it according to your word, O God.*
- M - *With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.*
- P - *I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.*
- M - *Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.*
- P - *With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.*
- M - *I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.*
- P - *I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.*
- M - *I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

Psalm 119:9-16 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
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National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
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Guitar begins intro to song. M motions for congregation to stand. As people sing, M walks to worship center and picks up the large red heart cut-out lying on it, and heads to the wood cross set up in front of the piano. As M is somewhat height-challenged, she tries to nail the heart where the 2 beams intersect – but cannot. She then goes and recruits someone from the congregation to help her. They accomplish this as the song continues.

Open the eyes of my heart

Guitar: Capo 2

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. o-pen the eyes of my heart

I want to see You. I want to see You.

to see You high and lift - ed up, —
to see You in hu - mi - li - ty, —

shin - ing in the light of Your glo - ry,
serv - ing all the least and the low - ly,

pour out Your pow'r and love — as we sing

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly"

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly"

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" I want to see You,

Prayer of Praise

You have forgotten more than we will ever think of;
you have forgiven more than we will ever do;
you have shattered the cold stones encasing our hearts,
so you could write your name on them.
Redeemer of all, we praise you.

You plant the seed of grace and hope deep within us,
watering them with your love;
you call us to follow, so we may join you
in serving the broken of our world.
Jesus of the tears, we praise you.

You journey with us, leading us closer to the cross;
you center us on the One we would follow,
so we can see Jesus clearly;
you point to your watch,
so we know the hour for faithfulness has come.
Generous Spirit, we praise you.

AMEN

written by Rev. Thom M. Shuman, (adapted)
currently interim Pastor at
Galloway Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio.
from: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Please be seated.

“Have thine own way”

(vs. 1-2)

We turn now to a time of confession, beginning with the first two verses of “Have thine own way,” #504 in your hymnal, the words also projected up the screen. Sing from your heart.

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Hymnal #504
words by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1907
music by George C. Stebbins, 1907

part 1
Responsive Confession
(based upon Psalm 51)

With words based upon Psalm 51, we speak our confession.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your unfailing love;

**People: Blot out all our transgressions,
according to your great compassion;**

Leader: Wash away all our iniquities
and cleanse us from our sin.

**People: For we know our transgressions,
and our sin is always before us.**

Leader: We have sinned against you
and have done what is evil in your sight.

ALL: as sacrifice we bring our broken and contrite hearts.

Hymnal #690
©1988, Ruth A. Yoder
26175 Woodridge Dr., Elkhart, IN 46517.

“Have thine own way”
(vs. 3-4)

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power -- all power -- surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold over my being absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

Hymnal #504
words by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1907
music by George C. Stebbins, 1907

part 2
Responsive Assurance
(based upon Psalm 51)

Leader: God will create in each of us a pure heart.
God will not take the Holy Spirit from us.
God will restore to us the joy of salvation
and grant us willing spirits to sustain us.

***ALL: Praise to the God of mercy
who loves and forgives us.***

Hymnal #690
©1988, Ruth A. Yoder
26175 Woodridge Dr., Elkhart, IN 46517.

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Turn with me to your bulletin which has a heart printed on it.

On this day, in this moment,
what promise of God,
or commandment from the Lord,
or words of comfort or challenge from the Bible
speak deeply to you?
This may be what you need most right now,
or what is currently “tickling” your faith,
encouraging your journey with Jesus.
Write it in the heart
as our offerings are collected.

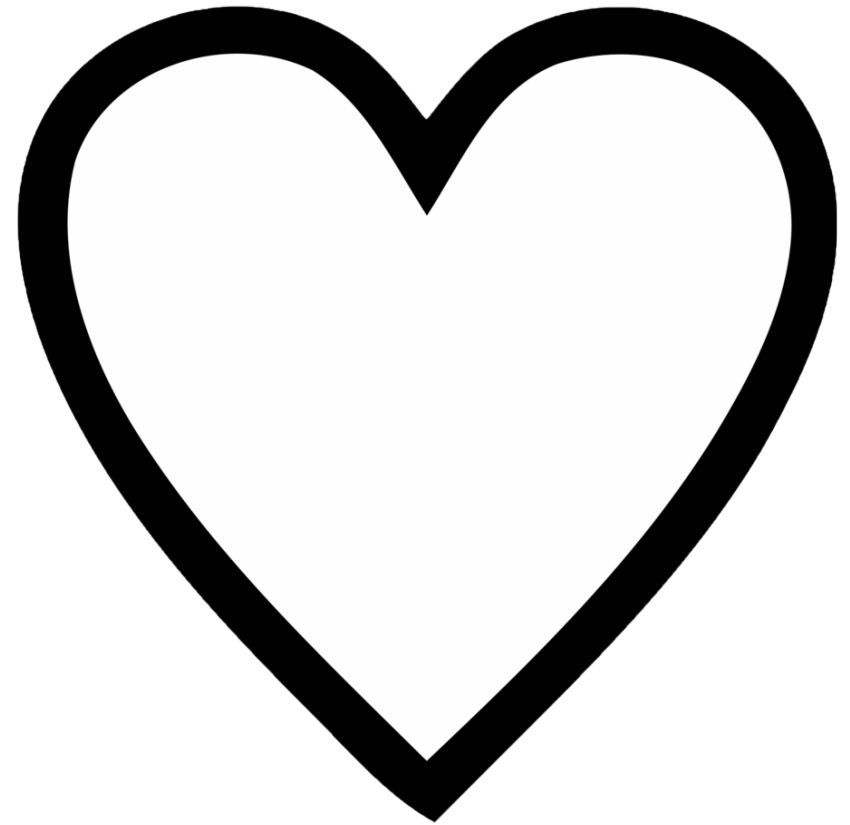
Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

Offertory Video

(“Thy Word” – sung by Amy Grant)

the insert →

On this day, in this moment,
what promise of God,
or commandment from the Lord,
or words of comfort or challenge from the Bible
speak deeply to you?
This may be what you need most right now,
or what is currently “tickling” your faith,
encouraging your journey with Jesus.
Write it in the heart.



“I treasure your word in my heart...”

Psalm 119:11

Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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



“New earth, heavens new”

As we sing this hymn that leads us into our morning prayer, I invite you to offer to God what you earlier wrote on your bulletin insert. Before doing so, look over your words and commit them to heart – that is, memorize them. You don’t need a piece of paper to remind you. They are written on your heart. While we sing, some young people will come down the aisle with the vase that was specially created for our district youth to take with them to National Youth Conference in 2010. Along with other containers from around the denomination, it became part of the worship center for that event. Our youth will collect your folded inserts and place them in that vase, and then place it at the foot of the cross. So, pass your “hearts” to the center aisle for them to weave into our worship, actively beginning our prayer.

Let us sing.

1. New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving;
new seed, creatures new, Spirit of life moving;
new man, woman new, image of God moving.
refrain: Sing a new song to the One who has said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”
2. New love, mercies new, Spirit of God moving;
new strength, hopefulness new, Spirit of life moving;
new hearts, spirits new, image of God moving.
refrain: Sing a new song to the One who has said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”
3. New minds, wisdom new, Spirit of God moving;
new law, covenant new, Spirit of life moving;
new name, nature new, image of God moving.
refrain: Sing a new song to the One who has said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”

4. New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving;
New birth, creatures new, Spirit of life moving;
new men, women new, image of God moving
refrain: Sing a new song to the One who has said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”

Hymnal #299
by Harris Loewen
© 1991 Hope Publishing Co.
CCLI #1347096

Prayer

Loving God, You created us in Your image, and You have put a new heart within us, one with Your covenant written upon it. You have called us to follow You and Your ways, to be Your people, to be one in You. May we know that we are not alone. May we remember to turn to others, to ask others to pray for us, to ask for help and guidance, for You have called us to love our neighbor, and that is not only for us to love others, but also to be loved by others. In our time of need, when our faith waivers, when we feel unloved, may we be reminded of Your love and grace in the love and compassion of our neighbors, that we are one body in Christ. As we have heard laughter and tears this morning in our time of sharing, may those we have mentioned have their faith kindled, their hurts healed, their hearts warmed by love and grace from You – sometimes through us. Through it all we recognize Your hand at work, and we thank you. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell (enlarged)
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John 12:20-32

(1 reads from the lectern, 2 stands beside the wood cross, 3 from the other side of the center aisle. Several small wheat stalks lay in front of the lectern, ready for 2 to place them in the vase at the appropriate time below.)

- 1 - ²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
- 2 - ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him,
- 3 - “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”
- 1 - ²² Philip went and told Andrew;
- 2 - then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
- 3 - ²³ Jesus answered them,
- 1 - “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you,
- 2 - (places wheat stalks into vase at base of wood cross, then:) unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- 3 - ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
- 1 - ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.
- 2 - Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
- 3 - ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’?
- 1 - No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.”

- 2 - Then a voice came from heaven,
- 3 - “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”
- 1 - ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”
- ³⁰ Jesus answered,
- 2 - “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
- 3 - ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him,
- 1 - “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”
- 2 - ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer.
- 3 - Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.
- 1 - If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going.
- 2 - ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

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Message

“It’s all Greek to me”

“Lift high the cross”

refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,
draw all the world to seek you once again.

refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

2. From north and south, from east and west, we raise
in growing unison our song of praise.

refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3. Let every race and every language tell of him
who saves our lives from death and hell.

refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Hymnal #321
words by George W. Kitchin, 1887
revised by Michael R. Newbolt, 1916

Benediction

Go now, to serve Christ and follow him.
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth
so that you may bear much fruit
as you allow God to reshape your heart
and live in obedience to the law written within you.

And may God center you in truth and steady your spirit.
May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will.
And may the Spirit teach you God’s hidden wisdom
and fill you with songs of rejoicing.

by Nathan Nettleton (©2003)
pastor, South Yarra Community Baptist Church
(near Melbourne, Australia)
from the Laughing Bird resources

Postlude