

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 8, 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

Second Sunday of Easter

“With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Every morning is...” (insert)

Announcements

Prelude

We declare what we have seen and heard...

Call to Worship John 20:19-23

*Welcome Hymn “Jesus, stand among us” 25

*Opening Prayer

*Scripture 1 John 1:1-3

*Hymn “Proclaim the tidings near and far” 282

Scripture 1 John 1:4-2:2 (from *The Message*)

Unison Confession 700

...what we have touched with our hands...

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

Reading actively Psalm 133

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

Hymn “Help us to help each other” 362

Prayer in 2 voices

...concerning the word of life (1 John 1:1)

Scripture Acts 4:32-35

Message “*Testifying to the resurrection*”

*Hymn “They’ll know we a Christians” (insert)

*Benediction John 20:21
“Every morning is Easter morning”
(last 4 lines)

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-04-08.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) Every Morning is Easter Morning

Richard Avery
Don Marsh

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev - 'ry day's re - sur - rec-tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good rid - dance! Hel - lo Lord, hel - lo sun!
Dai - ly news is so bad it seems the Good News sel - dom gets heard.
Yes - ter - day I was bored and lone - ly; but to - day look and see!

I am one of the Eas-ter Peo-ple! My new life has be - gun!
Get it straight from the Eas-ter Peo-ple: God's in charge! Spread the word!
I be - long to the Eas-ter Peo-ple! Life's ex - cit - ing to me!

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev - 'ry day's re - sur - rec-tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing. *pp* Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing.

ppp Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing, *ff* from now on!

Prelude

Call to Worship

- 1 - Though this is the Sunday after Easter, remember:
- 2 - Every morning is Easter morning from now on.
- 1 - Every day is resurrection day!
- 2 - So listen to another portion of the story of our salvation.
- 1 - (pause a moment) *When it was evening on that day,
the first day of the week,*
- 2 - *and the doors of the house where the disciples had met
were locked for fear of the Jews,*
- 1 - *Jesus came and stood among them and said,*
- 2 - *“Peace be with you.”*
- 1 - *After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.*
- 2 - *Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.*
- 1 - *Jesus said to them again,*
- 2 - *“Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”*
- 1 - *When he had said this,
he breathed on them and said to them,*
- 2 - *“Receive the Holy Spirit.*
- 1 - *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;*
- 2 - *if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*
- 1 - (pause a moment) **May our risen Lord come in Spirit
and stand among us now.**
- 2 - **Open the door of your mind and heart and welcome him.**

“Jesus, stand among us”

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power.
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart.

Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart. Hymnal #25
words by William Pennefather, 1873
music by Friedrich Filitz, 1847

Opening Prayer

O living Christ,
come to us in the glory of your risen power;
come to us in the humility of your wondrous love.

Come and reign among us!

Let new life course through our veins,
new love bind us together,
and new vision spur us on to follow you forever.

Even so, come Lord Jesus. AMEN Hymnal #677
The Iona Community, Scotland,
The New Book of Christian Prayers,
© 1986, Tony Castle. (edited by Tony Castle).
Crossroad/Continuum Publishing Company

From the fourth Gospel,
we turn to the beginning
of the first letter of John.
Listen.

← John 20:19-23
from the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible,
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1 John 1:1-3

- 1 - *“We declare to you what was from the beginning,*
- 2 - *what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,*
- 1 - *what we have looked at and touched with our hands,*
- 2 - *concerning the word of life --*
- 1 - *this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it,*
- 2 - *and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us--*
- 1 - *we declare to you what we have seen and heard*
- 2 - *so that you also may have fellowship with us;*
- 1 - *and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.”*
- 2 - *Remain standing, and “Proclaim the tidings near and far,”
#282 in your hymnal.*

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“Proclaim the tidings near and far”

1. Proclaim the tidings near and far,
go tell the blessed story;
the grave has given up its dead -
the Lord of life and glory.
*refrain: Sing glory, glory, glory hallelujah!
Sing glory, glory, glory hallelujah!*
2. The Lord is risen! O rejoice,
the joyful chorus swelling,
and sing glad songs with heart and voice,
the wondrous story telling. (refrain)
3. The Lord is risen! O rejoice,
the God of life has spoken.
Forevermore through Christ's dear name
the power of death is broken. (refrain)

Hymnal #282
words by Fronia S. Smith, 1890
tune by J.H. Fillmore, 1890

Please be seated.
We continue in the first letter of John.
Listen.

1 John 1:4-2:2

- 1 - *Our motive for writing is simply this:*
- 2 - *We want you to enjoy this, too.*
- 1 - *Your joy will double our joy!*
- 2 - *This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you:*
- 1 - *God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him.*
- 2 - *If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not living what we claim.*
- 1 - *But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.*
- 2 - *If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense.*
- 1 - *On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.*
- 2 - *If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God—make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.*
- 1 - *I write this, dear children, to guide you out of sin.*
- 2 - *But if anyone does sin, we have a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father:*
- 1 - *Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus.*

- 2 - *When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's.*

from The Message
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2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson
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Unison Confession

Having heard this good news, let us join our voices in a unison confession, turning together to the source of our salvation.

Lord Jesus,
blind I am, do thou enlighten me;
naked I am, do thou clothe me;
wounded, do thou heal me;
dead, do thou quicken me.
I know of no light,
no physician,
no life, except thee. AMEN

Hymnal #700
by Menno Simons, 16th c., "Meditation on the 25th Psalm,"
from The Complete Writings of Menno Simons,
translated by Leonard Verduin, ed. J.C. Wenger,
© 1956 Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA 15683.

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

As you return your offering this morning, recall how sadness was transformed to gladness on the first Easter. Remember that not everyone was there to witness the risen Christ when he surprised his dejected disciples in that room in which they had closed themselves. Thomas, for instance, was left out ... but not for long.

Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

Offertory Video

<https://gloria.tv/video/QBijvkdsejg3q6wrV1NaKttJ>

Reading actively Psalm 133

Before we move into a time of sharing, let's speak the 133rd psalm in an active way. What I say, you repeat. As you do, follow with the motions I show you. It's short, so we can do this 2 or 3 times through.

How good and pleasant it is

(hug yourself and stroke your arms)

when God's people

(spread out arms and motion to everyone)

live together in peace!

(hold up both hands with 2 fingers spread in peace symbol)

It is like precious oil poured on the head,

(one hand above pretending to pour bottle of oil on head)

running down

(jiggling fingers move down both sides of head)

on the beard,

(jiggling fingers reach the chin)

down on the collar of the priest's robe.

(jiggling fingers reach the chin)

It is as if the dew on the high mountain

(jiggle fingers up high in the sky)

were falling where God's people worship.

(jiggle fingers over everyone gathered here)

For here the Lord bestows his blessing,

(hold hands up, palms down, like a benediction)

life forevermore.

(hold hands out in front, palms up, to receive)

(note: if there are children, they will be drawn into learning on-the-fly and helping to lead the congregation in actively speaking this psalm. Along the way, we might playfully interact with such things as oil poured on the head – “ewww” – and the significance of dew in a dry land.)

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

“Help us to help each other”

1. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's load to bear,
that all may live in true accord,
our joys and pains to share.
2. Help us to build each other up,
your strength within us prove.
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,
and fill us with your love.
3. Together make us free indeed -
your life within us show,
and into you, our living Head,
let us in all things grow.
4. Drawn by the magnet of your love
we find our hearts made new.
Nearer each other let us move,
and nearer still to you.

Hymn #362
words by Charles Wesley, 1742
revision ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.
music by Francios H. Bethelmon
adapted by Robert Simpson, 1833

Prayer in 2 voices

1. God of Easter, our sure savior and faithful friend, wherever the irrepressible grace of Christ Jesus is known, may it be freely shared. We pray for teeming millions around the world, and for your servant the church, at work in every land.
2. We pray for the witness of the church in whatever community it is set. Keep it loyal through times of harassment and suffering and, what is more difficult, keep it faithful in times of prosperity and comfort.
1. We pray for the church wherever it is in dialogue with other religions. Keep it humble yet absolutely true to its own gospel, and what is more difficult, keep it open to anything you want to say to us through other faiths.
2. We pray for our nation with its many strengths and considerable flaws. Bless those political and community leaders whom we respect and cherish, and what is more difficult for us to ask, we pray for your blessing on those who disappoint, frustrate and anger us.
1. We pray for other nations and their leaders, especially those that are struggling against heavy odds to maintain the well-being of their citizens. and what is more difficult, we pray for any nations that despise or would spitefully abuse us.
2. We pray for friends and family who love us well and whom we love dearly, in happiness or in grief, in success or failure, in sickness or in health; and what is more difficult, we pray for those prickly souls among relatives or neighbors whom we find it hard to like.

1. We pray for the hardworking immigrants who have brought skills and wealth to our nation, and whose diverse cultures have so enriched us; and what is more difficult we pray for those refugees who come uninvited to our shores with nothing but their pitiful need.
2. We pray, Savior and Friend, for each other gathered here today. We especially pray for those who are suffering physical or emotional ills with scant complaint; and what is more difficult, we pray for any who seem to advertise even minor aches and pains with repetitious stories.
1. God of the Easter Christ, please endow us with more of his kind of love, that we may give of our best without looking for personal profit, and go on our way rejoicing even when we are misunderstood or rebuffed. For yours is the kingdom of love, the power of love, and the glory of love, now and for ever.
2. Amen!

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Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia

Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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Message

“Testifying to the resurrection”

CCLI# 1347096→

They'll Know We Are Christians

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

TEXT: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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ST. BRENDAN'S

Irregular meter

Benediction

Remember what the Risen Christ said to his fearful disciples:

*“Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me,
so I send you.”*

(John 20:21)

(followed by:)

“Every morning is Easter morning”

(last 4 lines)

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas - ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev - 'ry day's re - sur - rec-tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing. *pp* Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing.

ppp Ev - 'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing, *ff* from now on!

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Postlude