

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

April 29, 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 Easter

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “The Summons” (insert)

Announcements

Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship Psalm 22:25-31 (*Laughing Bird* version)

One: Whenever people gather to worship, LORD, my heart overflows and I sing your praises.

All: Out in the open for all to see - I'll do all that I promised.

One: At your table, God, the needy will feast;

All: those who hunger for you will be fed till they burst with praise!

One: They will be able to live it up, now and forever!

All: In every corner of the earth people will wake up to themselves and turn back to you, LORD.

One: Every race, nation, tribe and family will offer themselves to you in worship,

All: for you have the last word on everything;

One: what you say goes.

All: Even the dead will bow down to you, LORD;

One: those who are trampled in the dust will look to you in hope,

All: and I will live for you and you alone.

One: Our kids and their kids will serve you, LORD; as we pass the message down from one generation to the next.

All: People not even born yet will hear the story; they will be told of what you have done to set us free.

*Hymn “Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” 278

*Opening Prayer

Scripture 1 John 4:7-21 (*NIV*)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

A story while we give “I Love You Stinky Face” by Lisa McCourt
(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

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

Hymn “Breathe on me, breath of God” 356

Prayer

Song “Come, follow me” (insert)

Scripture John 15:1-8

Message “*Abiding in the Vine*”

*Hymn “Thou true Vine, that heals” 373

*Closing Prayer (*in unison*) 752

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-04-29.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“The Summons”

Announcements

Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship

Please rise and join in our Call to Worship.

One: Whenever people gather to worship, LORD, my heart overflows and I sing your praises.

All: Out in the open for all to see - I'll do all that I promised.

One: At your table, God, the needy will feast;

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Psalm 22:25-31

from the *Laughing Bird* version

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“Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!”

Remain stand and let us proclaim in song that Christ is alive!

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.
3. Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

Hymnal #278
words by Brian Wren, 1968
text copyright © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.
music – “Truro” is anonymous, 1789

Opening Prayer

Pray with me.

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
from the Iona Community, Scotland,
The New Book of Christian Prayers,
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Company. Used by permission

Please be seated.

1 John 4:7-21

M - ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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Responding with Offerings

P - We love because we were loved first. Upon this foundation everything depends. A child grows in her ability to love out of the soil of her parent's love. If it is a love full of conditions (you know, "behave right and I will love you. Misbehave and I'll withhold my love."), he will become a person who loves conditionally. But if she is loved unconditionally by her mother, if he experiences love without conditions by his father, this child will grow up to be an adult who is able to love unconditionally. And the gift is passed on from one generation to the next.

Well, children of our God who has loved us first and foremost, it's time for a story. As you return your offering, imagine yourself as a child sitting upon your parent's lap as they read you a picture book. This was one of my favorite things to do as a young father, reading to my children, something I look forward to as a grandparent, if and when that ever happens. Granted, it's not a Bible story – this video projected on the screen, but it does point toward unconditional love. Let's grow in our ability to love, grounded in the love of God we have experienced.

Ushers?

Offertory Video

"I Love You Stinky Face," by Lisa McCourt
<https://youtu.be/fZqDb3Hpw5k>

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

Prayer

Center us now, O God, on your presence in this place among your people, as we lift up our hearts desires, our soul's deep needs, our hungers, fears and failures.

As we have often failed to be obedient to your will in our lives as individual disciples and as church, we pray that you will forgive us and enliven us to be and to do the gospel of Christ. Open us to your Spirit's urgings, and awaken us to live faithfully as your people in a changing, often hurting world.

We pray for those around us who need your care, and ask that you would make of us your instruments of healing, peace and redemption. We pray especially for those we have named to you this day, and others we lift to you in the silence of our hearts.

Reveal your presence with them and with us, God of life, that as people of renewed faith and vitality, we may be empowered to serve your world, and so give glory to you; for we offer our prayers and our lives in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

created or adapted by Rev. David Chafin
Deputy Regional Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
from his blog: Life in Liturgy

“Breathe on me, breath of God”

1. Breathe on me, breath of God.
Fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Hymnal #356
words by Edwin Hatch, 1878
music by Robert Jackson, 1888

M - As Pete sings the following song, we will be passing baskets of grapes. When one comes to you, break off a small cluster for yourself and pass the basket to the next person. Don't start eating until we read the next scripture, however. The song is printed in your bulletin. It will also be projected on the screen. If you catch the tune and want to sing along, feel free. If not, just listen, and let your mouth water at the prospect of eating the grapes.

Come, follow me

chorus: Come, fol - low me and you will see what love can do if you let it be your heart's de - sire, your in - ner fire, a Word so real it will set you free.

1. Je - sus shows us what God is like, a love that reach-es the
 2. Love sur - ren - ders what hate de - fends, and pride gives way to a
 3. Love's com - mu - ni - ty still lives on as we to - geth-er say

lost and the least. At his ta - ble we're served and saved, and tub and a towel. "Love your en - e - my," Je - sus said, and "yes" to the Lord. Jour - ney on to where Je - sus calls and called to join in the feast. love will tear down the wall. let God's love be re - stored. Come, Come, Come.

Copyright © 1997, Pete Haynes

Scripture

M - As I read the following words from Jesus, as shared with us by gospel writer John, I invite you to slowly eat the grapes in your hand. Enjoy their natural sweetness. Ponder how, when squashed this fruit becomes a refreshing drink. Remember how Jesus shared this juice with his disciples, likening it to his life-blood shed for all. In other words, friends, may this scripture become communion to us as we open our ears, minds, and hearts to God through it... Listen...

(pause)

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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 National Council of the Churches of Christ
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Message

"Abiding in the Vine"

“Thou true Vine, that heals”

1. Thou true Vine, that heals the nations,
Tree of life, thy branches we.
They who leave thee fade and wither,
none bear fruit except in thee.
Cleanse us, make us sane and simple,
till we merge our lives in thine,
gain ourselves in thee, the Vintage,
give ourselves through thee, the Vine.
2. Nothing can we do without thee;
on thy life depends each one.
If we keep thy words and love thee,
all we ask for shall be done.
May we, loving one another,
radiant in thy light abide;
so through us, made fruitful by thee,
shall our God be glorified.

Hymnal #373
words by Percy Dearmer, 1925
© Oxford University Press, London
to an American folk hymn

Closing Prayer

(in unison)

Gracious God,
grant that the words we have heard this day
may be so grafted within our hearts
that they bring forth fruit
to the honor and praise of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Hymnal, #752

adapted from "Order of Worship," Worship the Lord.
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Postlude