

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

July 22, 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

*“As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them, because they
were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began
to teach them many things.” (Mark 6:34)*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Angels we have heard on high” 197

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship “Shepherd me, O God” (Psalm 23) 519

sing chorus, read stanzas

1 - all

2 - women

3 - men

4 - leader

5 - all

*Hymn “Savior, like a shepherd lead us” 355

*Opening Prayer Georgia Smith

A Word of caution Jeremiah 23:1-6

Unison Confession 703

A Silent Pause

Unison Assurance of God’s forgiveness 708

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

Hymn “Shepherd of tender youth” 480
(sung to “My faith looks up to thee,” #565)

Prayer

A Word of reminder Ephesians 2:11-22

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

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

A Word of Good News Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Message “*Like sheep without a shepherd*”

*Hymn “The Lord’s my shepherd” 578

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at
<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-07-22.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“Angels we have heard on high”

(a little bit of Christmas in July)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?.....*(refrain)*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.*(refrain)*
4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.*(refrain)*

Prelude

Hymnal #197
author of text unknown
traditional French carol

Call to Worship

Please turn to #519 in your hymnal. For this Call to Worship, we will all sing the refrain at the beginning and after the first, third and fifth verses, led by Kay and Pete. We will then read, instead of sing, the verses, taking turns – led by me. On the first, everyone will read, then the women read the second verse, the men the third, I will read the fourth, and we will all read the fifth. Let us join together and enter worship with the 23rd Psalm. Kay and Pete, please start us out...

(Everyone sings *Refrain*.) Shepherd me, O God,
beyond my wants, beyond my fears,
from death into life.

All read vs. 1

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

(Everyone sings *Refrain*)

Women read vs. 2

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth;
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Men read vs. 3

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

(Everyone sings *Refrain*)

Leader reads vs. 4

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold.

All read vs. 5

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

(Everyone sings *Refrain*)

Hymnal #519
words based on Psalm 23
by Marty Haugen, 1985
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Rise now, in body or spirit,
and let us sing to our “Savior”
who is “like a shepherd” to “lead us,”
#355 in your hymnal.

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us”

Opening Prayer

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care.
In thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
thou hast bought us, thine we are.
2. We are thine, do thou befriend us,
be the guardian of our way.
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
hear, O hear us, when we pray.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
hear, O hear us, when we pray.
3. Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
thou hast loved us, love us still.

With your shepherd’s staff you have gathered us to this place and time. For some, this week has held dark valley moments. Thank you for bringing us through them, O Lord. For all of us, there have been times of contentment along the way, when we have known green pastures and still waters, even if only briefly. Thank you for this, O Lord. We have also been hungry and thirsty, both in a physical and a spiritual sense. Thank you, as well, for this yearning within – for we bring this longing with us to this hour, with a growing awareness that only you can fulfill our deepest needs. After this time at your table, with your oil anointing where we hurt, send us forth as under-shepherds to care for those around us. So, yes, “Savior, like a shepherd lead us.” ... Now! ... In your name we pray. AMEN

Hymnal #355
words are anonymous, 1836
music by William B. Bradbury, 1859

A Word of caution
Jeremiah 23:1-6

A word of caution from the prophet Jeremiah,
as paraphrased by the *Laughing Bird* version:

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:

The writing is on the wall for you leaders of my people. You are supposed to be like shepherds, keeping an eye on my flock and seeing that they are kept united and safe. But you have butchered them and scattered them. You have driven them off and left them defenseless. But I can assure you that I, the LORD, have been keeping my eye on you! I will see that you get what you deserve for your crimes against my people.

I will bring back what's left of my people; bring them home from the lands where I sent them when they fled as refugees. Back home where they belong, they will regain their strength and flourish once again. I, the LORD, will raise up new leaders for them who can be trusted to care for them like real shepherds. My people will no longer have any reason to fear or despair, and none of them will be lost.

You can be sure that the time is coming when I, the LORD, will raise up a true king from the family of David; one who will rule with wisdom and do the right thing; who will bring justice to the land and set things right.

As long as he reigns the land will be secure and my people will enjoy peace.

Whenever his name is mentioned, people will say, "Ah! The LORD has put everything right!"

from the *Laughing Bird* version
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Turn in your Hymnal to #703 for our...

Unison Confession

Gracious God, hear our confession.

Our faith is uncertain,
our forgiveness slow,
our conviction weak,
our compassion wavering.

We have exalted the proud and powerful,
put down the weak,
saturated the rich with good things,
neglected the poor,
sent the hungry away empty-handed.

We have helped ourselves.

Show us your mercy,
Help us show mercy,
through your Son, our Savior. AMEN

Hymnal #703
Adapted from the musical "Prayer Phrases"
by Harris J. Loewen,
copyright © 1986 Harris J. Loewen

A Silent Pause

Be still for a moment and know that God is God.
turning first to #708.

Unison Assurance of God's forgiveness

May God, who is almighty and merciful,
forgive our sins,
heal our diseases,
and bring us to eternal life,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Hymnal #708
Mass of the Roman Rite

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

“Shepherd of tender youth”

As we prepare for prayer, let's sing the words to #480 in your hymnal to a more familiar tune: “My faith looks up to thee” (#565).

1. Shepherd of tender youth, guiding, in love and truth,
through unknown ways;
Christ, our triumphant king, we come thy name to sing,
and here our children bring to shout thy praise.
2. Thou art our holy Lord, the all-subduing Word,
healer of strife.
Thou didst thyself abase, that from sin's deep disgrace
thou mightest save our race, and give us life.
3. Thou art our soul's high priest,
thou hast prepared the feast of holy love.
And in our mortal pain, none calls on thee in vain.
Help thou dost not disdain, help from above.
4. Ever be thou our guide, our shepherd and our pride,
our staff and song.
Jesus, thou Christ of God, by thy perennial word,
lead us where thou hast trod. Make our faith strong.
5. So now and till we die, sound we thy praises high,
and joyful sing.
Children, amid the throng who to thy church belong,
unite and swell the song to Christ our king.

Hymnal #480
Text by Clement of Alexandria (2nd-3rd century)
translated by Henry M. Dexter, 1849

Prayer

This morning's prayer was written for today by a team of prayer partners in a California church who bear a concern that we move beyond our little corner of things and pray for the world. They share this prayer freely. And so we join with them...

Take a deep breath.

The Holy Spirit is alive and active in us.

Let us pray.

Amid the chaos and confusion, the demands on our time and attention, we long to hear you call us away for a time of rest and renewal. God of Grace and mercy, the news weighs heavy on our hearts. Sometimes we don't even know where to start, how to make an impact in this world. It can feel as though everyone we encounter is a sheep without a shepherd. Fill our hearts with the compassion of Jesus, that we might both find the rest we so desperately need, and the strength and courage to do the hard work of mercy, justice and reconciliation.

God, we pray for all those in political offices, that they might lead with the best interests of the people, and the planet, in mind. We pray especially for the leaders of Israel and Palestine, that they might make steps toward a sustainable peace.

We pray for researchers seeking to detect and cure cancer and other diseases, as Australian researchers may have developed a blood test which can detect melanoma at an early stage, and may lead to saving many lives.

We pray for police, first-responders, EMTs, and all public servants, as they serve others in difficult and trying situations. We pray especially for the firefighters who are battling overwhelming wildfires in Sweden, and for the neighboring countries who are providing much-needed resources.

We pray for all those who labor, sometimes working in nearly unbearable situations, to afford us the comforts we desire. We pray for miners and all who work in dangerous professions as five miners have died in a South African copper mine.

We pray for business leaders, that they may realize the impact their decisions have on families, and on the environment we all share. We pray for just and fair trade practices as leaders in Japan and the European Union have recently come to a significant trade deal.

We pray for families, that parents are able to provide the needed support and be the role models our children deserve. And, we pray that all children would have their basic needs met, especially when their parents are unable or unwilling to meet those needs.

And God, we pray for ourselves, that we might hear your voice, discern your will for our lives, and have the courage and strength to work for justice. And may we find peace and rest...so we might be empowered to show the compassion of Christ to all those around us. Amen.

A Word of reminder
Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised.¹² At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God’s promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. ¹³ But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. ¹⁵ He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

¹⁷ When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. ¹⁸ We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. ¹⁹ So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God’s people, and you belong to God’s household. ²⁰ As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

Responding with Offerings

Yes, remember that “*Christ is our peace*” ... “*With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us*” ... Therefore, we “*are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, (we) are fellow citizens with God’s people, and (we) belong to God’s household.*”

With that good news, we head into some household responsibilities, like funding our church’s budget, that this household of God might fulfill our calling.

Ushers, please come and guide us in this task.

Offertory

A Word of Good News
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

P - Our gospel reading for today pulls together two small sections of the sixth chapter of Mark. We continue from previous weeks the geographic location of the sea of Galilee, where Jesus teaches and heals the multitudes, and his disciples learn the art of disciple and apostleship. In the lectionary, we put these two sections together because what lies in the middle – Mark’s rendition of the feeding of the five thousand (which we’ll hear next week from John’s gospel), and another fearful story out on the sea.

A few weeks back, we heard about Jesus being asleep during a terrifying storm. This story has not storm and no Jesus, at least not at first. Having spent some time alone, Jesus rejoins his disciples, walking on the water to them. It kind of freaked them out. We depend upon a gospel other than Mark for the account of Peter trying to walk on water to Jesus, something Mark omits. The disciples here are afraid and astounded. Mark says that they didn’t understand the loaves and fishes, and even more so didn’t understand Jesus walking on water. With those two portions saved for other days, let’s listen to these words from the 6th chapter of Mark...

G - ³⁰ *The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and*

recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things...

P - We skip over the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on water, and arrive at another seaside town, where the story continues... Listen...

G - ⁵³ *When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.*

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Message

“Like sheep without a shepherd”

“The Lord’s my shepherd”

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes.
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Hymnal #578
Text based on Psalm 23
Music by John S. Irvine, 1872

Benediction

The blessing of God be upon you and go with you
The authority of God be over you and around you
The grace of God be in you and freely given by you
The peace of God be yours, this day and every day. Amen

written by Silvia Purdie
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Postlude