

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

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

September 23, 2018

Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10am

Large print hymnals are available, please see an usher

This room is equipped with a sound loop for the hearing impaired

*"Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 54:2, NIV). And help me also listen to you during this time of
worship.*

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) "Holy Spirit, come with power" 26

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to worship

*Hymn "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" 71

*Opening prayer

Scripture Reading Luke 7:37-50 (NIV)

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

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

(please be brief, and aware of God's listening presence)

Hymn "Healer of our every ill" 377

Prayer

Scripture Reading Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

Video Message *"Offer and accept forgiveness"* Eric Landram

*Hymn "Wonderful grace of Jesus" 150

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

Video message by Eric Landram
from 2018 *National Youth Conference*
can be viewed online at:
<https://youtu.be/J28BH7WkyLk>

Beginning with praise

"Holy Spirit, come with power"

Hymnal #26

Announcements

Prelude

Call to worship

Please stand for this morning's call to worship.

(pause)

It is hard, at times, to understand the actions of others around us. When there is pain, struggle, and fear in this world, it leads us to do things that we should not be doing, actions that lead us in a different direction than God desires for us to go. We come this morning, broken, wounded, anxious, and angry. We come this morning ready to dive in, ready to learn more about Jesus, ready to dig into the word of God. This morning, as we engage what it means to offer and accept forgiveness, may we release our hearts to God, knowing that God has the transformative ability to change lives, bring hope, and restore us into right relationships. So, let us gather, let us gather together, as friends, fellow travelers, and those seeking to bring help, change, and power to our world.

from *NYC 2018 Monday morning worship*
<http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/coverage/7-23-mon-am-worship-resources.pdf>

Please remain standing and let us join our voices in singing

“Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”

#71 in your hymnal.

Opening prayer

Please bow your heads and pray with me.

(pause)

Your presence is here, God, we feel it. We have come to expect that your presence will engage us in such a way that leads us to know you more and love you more. Challenge us to see you in all that we do during this worship - through prayer, praise, music, and the word about to be preached. You have been engaging us since we arrived here - energizing our heart, expanding our hope, celebrating our journey together. Right now, God, help us to be calm and centered enough to hear your voice, your call, your hope to be transformed disciples of Jesus. Amen.

from *NYC 2018 Monday morning worship*
<http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/coverage/7-23-mon-am-worship-resources.pdf>

You may be seated.

Luke 7:37-50

³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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Returning tithes and offerings

We now move to a time of returning our tithes and offerings. Ushers, please come and guide our giving.

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Please pray with me.

(pause)

Generous God, our lives are renewed as we remember your goodness. You have made us in your image and placed in our hearts the memory of your love made flesh in Jesus Christ. That memory calls us to give and to embrace your world as we offer these gifts. May our lives invested through these offerings create a new reality and extend your grace in remembrance of Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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*

<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2018/09/17/pentecost-18-proper-20b/>

Sharing joys and concerns

“Healer of our every ill”

Hymn #377

Prayer

Please pray with me.

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with hearts that need to be opened to your word and your love. There is so much around us that tears at us and causes us to tremble. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and the hope that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ. Guide us, we pray, as your church, struggling to spread the good news. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and lead us forward. We know, Lord, that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way. Save us from dwelling on them and make us secure in the goals you have placed before us. Hear our prayers for all who need your tender touch of healing in their lives—those we name before you each day, and those who are known only to you in the depths of our hearts. Be with those who mourn. May we all remember the love and grace that your faithful people have brought to our world. We pray for all your creation, always at odds with one another. Guide our leaders and those of other nations that this world might truly be as you created it to be—a world of peace, hope and love. These are our prayers, together with those that lie on the hearts of all your faithful people, which we offer to you in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ who said “not my will, but thine be done.” Amen.

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Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and

sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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Video message

“Offer and accept forgiveness”

by Eric Landram

<https://youtu.be/J28BH7WkyLk>

Please stand and join in singing our final hymn,

“Wonderful grace of Jesus”

#150 in your hymnal

Benediction

Through him, with him, and in him, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor be to you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

the concluding part
of the Latin Eucharistic Prayer,
called the *Per Ipsum*
adapted by Rev. David Chafin
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(Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
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