



Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We are a faith family walking together to know Christ and to make him known by engaging in dynamic worship, pursuing spiritual wisdom, investing in deep relationships, and affecting social renewal.

JANUARY 14, 2018

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Touch the Sky

*Dylan Thomas, Joel Houston,
Michael Guy Chislett*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!

**People: We will sing and make melody!
We will awaken the dawn!**

Pastor: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**All: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

**King of Heaven and Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

King of heaven come down King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day King of heaven come
King of heaven rise up who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name King of heaven come

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here.

Let Your will be done here in us.

Jesus, there is no one greater.

You alone are Savior. Show the world Your love.

We are children of Your mercy rescued for Your glory.

We cry, "Jesus set our hearts towards You that ev'ry eye would see You lifted high!"

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it; mount of Thy redeeming love.

O to grace, how great a debtor; daily I'm constrained to be.

Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.

Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it.

Seal it for Thy courts above. Seal it for Thy courts above.

King of heaven come King of heaven come

King of heaven come Oh King of heaven come

Welcome!

Whether we are old or young,
whether we are first-time or longtime
worshippers, whether we come full of
doubts or confidence, joy or sorrow,
in this place we are all family,
because of what Jesus did for us on
the cross.

*Hearing devices are available in the
Narthex.*

*Please sign the attendance register
located at the end of each pew.*

Why the Sacrament of Infant Baptism?

A sacrament is often described as a visible sign of an invisible grace. Perhaps no sacrament of the Christian Church demonstrates this reality more than the sacrament of infant baptism. Why? Because in all the other sacraments there is an active participation by the partaker – an adult being baptized receives this sacrament by request after a profession of faith. Those who take Communion (the Lord's Supper) do so with an understanding of the sacrifice of Christ for them. But in the baptism of an infant or very small child the recipient has no idea what is occurring, and will retain no memory of the event. So why do so many Christian traditions administer this sacrament?

The answer has nothing to do with traditions or superstitions. It has everything to do with the grace of God. Over three thousand years ago God did an astounding thing by taking a race of slaves (Hebrews) and claiming them as "the people of God." This promise extended not only to Hebrew adults but also to their children. The children were also part of God's people by virtue of the faith of their parents. Later, this promise (or covenant) was expanded to include people from all nations through faith in Jesus Christ. But in both the "Old" and "New" Testament periods, the children of believing parents were always included in the covenant.

In the very first recorded sermon of the Christian Church the Apostle Peter preached, "The promise is for you and your children..." (Acts 2:39.) What promise? The promise that God claims the followers of Jesus as children, and extends all the benefits of love and grace to both the believing parents AND their children. The children are also considered part of the covenant people of God - in the same way that the children of earthly parents are considered part of their family, even if they are too young to yet know they have parents. Child baptism is not about what the child has done to merit God's love – it is about the amazing grace of God who chooses to love them because of grace. [continued next page]

MORNING PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

Genesis 17:7

Shelley Kral
Elder Kathie Ramey

Levi Maxwell and Lydia Beth Johnson
Infant son and daughter of Liz and Chad Johnson
Brother and sister of Elijah Johnson

The commitment of the parents:

- Do you acknowledge Levi and Lydia's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you claim God's covenant promises and benefits for Levi and Lydia and by faith do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation as you do your own?
- Do you now unreservedly dedicate Levi and Lydia to God, and do you promise by relying on God's power and grace through the Holy Spirit to live an exemplary life before them?
- Do you commit yourself to pray with and for Levi and Lydia, to teach them the Scriptures and the great articles of our faith in Jesus Christ?
- Do you promise to use every means provided by God, including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to bring Levi and Lydia up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

The commitment of the congregation:

- Do you, the members of this congregation, acting for yourselves and in behalf of the whole Body of Christ, assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture of Levi and Lydia?
- Do you commit yourself to set a godly example before Levi and Lydia, to provide as far as you are able all that is necessary to the end that they may one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

**From the Inside Out*

A thousand times I've failed; still Your mercy remains,
And should I stumble again, still, I'm caught in Your grace.

Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fades.
Never-ending, Your glory goes beyond all fame.

In my heart in my soul, Lord, I give You control. Consume me from the inside out, Lord.
Let justice and praise become my embrace. To love You from the inside out.

Your will above all else. My purpose remains -
The art of losing myself in bringing You praise.

Everlasting! Your light will shine when all else fades!
Never-ending! Your glory goes beyond all fame!
And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise
From the inside out, Lord, my soul cries out!

In my heart in my soul, Lord, I give You control. Consume me from the inside out, Lord.
Let justice and praise become my embrace. To love You from the inside out.

Everlasting! Your light will shine when all else fades!
Never-ending! Your glory goes beyond all fame!
And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise from the inside out,
Lord, my soul cries out! From the inside out, Lord, my soul cries out! Lord.

PROCLAIMING

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

**Speak O Lord*

Speak O Lord as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory

Speak O Lord © 2005 Thankyou Music Keith Getty | Stuart Townend CCLI License No. 11081661

SERMON LESSON

James 1:1-27

SERMON

“Total Faith Workout: In Trouble”

Doug Ashley

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.

It Is Well With My Soul by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873. Music: 'Ville Du Havre' Philip P. Bliss, 1876. Copyright: public domain.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Beau Sullivan

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all Ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

SENDING

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

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The question is often asked, does baptism “save” the child? Once again it is helpful to think in terms of a human family. Just as children must grow up and choose to either accept or reject their family heritage, so too must baptized children one day make their own decisions as to whether they will follow after the faith of their parents. But until that day, they are part of God’s covenant people and the recipients of God’s love and grace.

How are tithes and offerings received at Longview EPC? How are we modeling monetary giving for our children?

In congruence with scriptures such as 2 Kings 12:9 and Matthew 12:41 where tithes and offerings were collected in boxes as people came and went from the temple, Longview EPC collects tithes and offerings through the wooden boxes found at all the entrances to the church sanctuary. Not taking an offering during the worship service enables visitors exploring the Christian faith to be present at worship without feeling obligated to contribute monetarily. Also, it reminds believers that giving is an extension of worship that may occur any day of the week and through a variety of means. Parents, we encourage you to discuss the importance of monetary giving with your children and provide them with repeated opportunities to either place your family offering in one of the boxes, or join you at the computer if you use the electronic giving option.

**Thrive*

Here in this worn and weary land where many a dream has died;
Like a tree planted by the water we never will run dry.
So living water flowing through, God we thirst for more of You;
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with one desire:

Just to know You and to make You known we lift Your name on high;
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide.
We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives.
It's time for us to more than just survive, we were made to thrive.

Into Your Word we're digging deep to know our Father's heart.
Into the world we're reaching out to show them who You are.

Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable, love unstoppable, anything is possible.

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***BENEDICTION**

Doug Ashley

***POSTLUDE**

**Please stand as able*

INSPIRE & BE INSPIRED! On January 28 during the Sunday School hour we will hear from our Missionaries who serve in Africa with Overland Mission. It should be an exciting time as Pastor Doug interviews **Jake & Hannah Magness** and **Brandon & Lauren (Konvalin) Bender**. Hear how they see the Lord Jesus on the move in the territories to which He has sent them. We will meet in the sanctuary at approximately 11:00am. Please don't underestimate the encouragement your presence is at this gathering for Jake, Hannah, Brandon and Lauren.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS: Our worship service on January 28 will include our annual ordination and installation of new church officers during worship. Please plan to attend this milestone event in the life of Longview EPC.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

Sunday, January 14 — Infants: Bonnie Howell & Victoria; Toddlers: Ann Werline & Sarah
Sunday, January 21 — Infants: Sarah & Victoria; Toddlers: Tad & Mary Grace Carlisle

SAFETY TEAM VOLUNTEERS:

Sunday, January 14 — Bill Bagley & Buck Birdsong
Sunday, January 21 — Daniel Bond & Jim Brun

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY:

Please join one of our Adult Classes!

Christian Thought led by Larry Frazier is studying 1 Peter using the Wiersbe Bible Study Series Guide: How to Make the Best of Times Out of Your Worst of Times. Meets in Trinity Hall 106

Digging Deeper taught by Beau Sullivan is studying the Gospel of John. Meets in the Sanctuary

Faith in Life led by Shelley Kral and Daniel Bond is reviewing “12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy: Relief from False Assumptions” by Drs. Cloud & Townsend. Meets in Trinity Hall 107

The Gospel Project led by Leonard Wiley continues this Bible survey course. Meets in Carlton room in sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, Jan. 14—Youth Fellowship resumes
- Wednesday, Jan. 17—Pioneer Clubs and Youth Bible studies resume
- Friday, Jan 19—Mom to Mom
- Sunday, Jan. 28—Ordination and installation of new church officers during worship
- Wednesday, Feb. 7—Lunch Bunch

Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Worship 9:30 • Sunday School 10:45

Rev. Doug Ashley — Lead Pastor / dashley@epclongview.org
Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / skral@epclongview.org
Rev. Beau Sullivan — Assistant Pastor / bsullivan@epclongview.org
Tim Konvalin — Director of Music Ministry / tkonvalin@epclongview.org
Jason Hubbard — Director of Youth Ministry / jhubbard@epclongview.org
Emily Holloway — Director of Children's Ministry / eholloway@epclongview.org
Suzi White — Administrator / swhite@epclongview.org

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