



Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Longview EPC is 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.

JUNE 3, 2018
COMMISSIONING SUNDAY

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG

O Worship the King

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jason Hubbard

Leader: In God's kingdom, weakness becomes strength.

People: Loneliness finds companionship.

Leader: Fear grows into courage.

People: The foolish learn wisdom.

Leader: The wise learn sacrifice.

People: The great are humbled.

Leader: The humble are lifted up.

People: In God's kingdom, all things are made whole.

All: O God, empower us to go into the world with continual praise of your greatness!

*How Great Is Our God

How great is our God! Sing with me, "How great is our God!"
And all will see how great, how great is our God.

The splendor of the King clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice! All the earth rejoice!
He wraps Himself in light and darkness tries to hide;
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands.
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead three in one; Father, Spirit, Son.
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

Name above all names! Worthy of all praise!
My heart will sing, "How great is our God!"

How Great Is Our God, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves; copyright 2204 sixsteps Music. Used by permission CCLI License # 1108166

*Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O, thou great Jehovah; Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty. Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

MORNING PRAYER

Welcome!

This morning we will be celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If you have not professed faith in Christ or if you are hearing the gospel for the first time, though you will not be partaking of the sacrament, it is our privilege to welcome you here. Perhaps what you experience will raise questions for you. After the service, we will be eager to talk with you further about the joy of our life in Christ and the significance of this celebration in our life together. If you have professed faith in Jesus Christ, we are honored to be worshipping with you this morning!

Hearing devices are available in the Narthex.

Please sign the attendance registers located at the end of each pew.

How do we prepare to receive the Lord's Supper?

First of all, by knowing Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Savior. We are to come with an understanding faith. We should know Christ, and we should know what this table is all about. That is, we should "partake in a worthy manner." This meal involves a "participation in the blood of Christ" (1 Cor 10:16).

Secondly, by being reconciled with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Our union with Jesus Christ is both an incentive and a means to unity with others (Matthew 5:23-24).

Thirdly, by repenting of all known sin. This is not a meal for perfect people. There is only one with a perfect righteousness, and that is Jesus Christ. We are to come trusting in His righteousness, but we are to come with a renewed repentance and desire to live as His obedient disciples. Scripture says, "A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Cor 11:28). If for any reason you are not ready to take the elements, it is always okay to come forward, cross your arms across your chest and receive a brief prayer of blessing from the Elder instead of receiving the elements.

PROCLAIMING

***SONG OF ILLUMINATION**

Word of God Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words, and the funny thing is it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard, but to hear what You would say.

Word of God speak! Would You pour down like rain? Washing my eyes to see Your majesty.
To be still and know that You're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness. (Word of God speak)

Word of God Speak by Bart Millard and Pete Kipley. 2002 Wordspring Music. Used by permission CCLI #11081661

SERMON LESSON

Psalm 120

Doug Ashley

SERMON

The First Turn

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

If you are a baptized Christian who actively trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation and are willing to forsake your sin, you are welcome to take Holy Communion this morning. If you are wrestling with the claims of Jesus and his place in your life, this time is still for you. Rather than coming forward to take the elements, please remain seated and contemplate taking Christ himself. The prayers that follow are supplied for your consideration.**

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

**Prayers from Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, for our life in Christ and citizenship in heaven, we praise and worship you. For your promise of daily mercies and sufficient grace, we trust you. By your grace and for your glory . . .

Forgive us for heeding the opinions of others more than the declarations of the gospel.

Forgive us for being quicker to judge hearts than wash feet.

Forgive us for keeping our burdens, heartaches, and struggles from our friends.

Forgive us for trying to justify our busyness, grumpiness, and emptiness.

We turn once again to you, Father, in humble dependence and expectant faith. In Jesus' loving name, we trust and pray. Amen. (Smith, Scotty. Every Season Prayers)

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Music for The Lord's Supper

Behold the Lamb

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Shelley Kral

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

**Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

SENDING

COMMISSIONING

Landon Ashley: *When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Matt 9:36-10:1)

Pastor: Is it with a heart of compassion that you follow the Lord's command to be his laborer, doing his work of love and healing so that God may be glorified and enjoyed forever?

Missionaries: It is.

Pastor: Is it with a heart of compassion that you, family and friends of Longview EPC, commit to pray earnestly to the Lord that these laborers may reap a large harvest?

Congregation: It is.

Gayle Poland: *Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..."* (John 20:21, 15:16a)

Pastor: Is it for love of Jesus Christ that you go to make a difference in people's lives, a difference that, God willing, will last?

Missionaries: It is.

Pastor: Is it for love of Jesus Christ that you commission these people so go and bear "fruit that will last"?

Congregation: It is.

Carrie Northcutt: *In what has become known as the Great Commission, Jesus told his followers to go and make disciples of all nations in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.* (Matt 28:19)

Pastor: Is it in obedience to Jesus and with his authority, that you go with him to tell all who will listen his story that they, too, may be disciples of Christ?

Missionaries: It is.

Pastor: Is it from the desire to bless others as you have been blessed that you commission this group of disciples to serve in St. Augustine, Lake Jackson, and Longview, Texas; Alaska and Europe?

Congregation: It is.

THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH LONGVIEW EPC

[continued on back page]

Why a 'Commissioning' in the worship service? Every week, our worship is shaped by a "gospel structure." God calls us to worship: we come, we praise his glory, we recognize our sin and confess it, we are renewed in the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to him and are sent forth into the world with God's blessing. As you can see, the natural by-product of the gospel saturating our hearts is God's sending us out for the work of the ministry. In our summer mission and outreach work, God is "commissioning" these people to go forth and witness in an intense way for the duration of their mission. Some go to familiar and others to unfamiliar places, but they are all 'commissioned' to be Christ's hands and feet to those who need Jesus' special touch. That is a wondrous thing. Yet, perhaps it won't stop there. Perhaps we can let their commissioning be a call to ALL of us to go forth this summer and care for a world that so desperately needs God's grace through us!

**Your Grace Is Enough*

Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough for me.

Great is Your faithfulness, O God. You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.

You lead us by still waters into mercy, where nothing can keep us apart.

So remember Your people; remember Your children, remember Your promise, O God

Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob; You use the weak to lead the strong.

You lead us in the song of Your salvation, and all Your people sing along.

So remember Your people. Remember Your children. Remember Your promise, O God.

Your Grace Is Enough by Matt Maher © 2003 spiritandsong.com CCLI License # 11081661

***BENEDICTION**

Doug Ashley

***POSTLUDE**

All the Good Things
**Please stand as able*

SUMMER...TIME! One of the best parts of the summer is TIME. With school being out and vacations being taken, summer is the prime time for TIME. Time with friends, time with family, time to relax, time to play, time to simply *be*. In that spirit, this summer we are inviting our faith family and friends to take time to *be* together. Instead of offering summer school lessons, we are offering Summer...TIME! Take the time after worship to gather in Trinity Hall and enjoy coffee and snacks and visit with old friends and make new friends. Spend a half hour as families, catching up and reaching out. Use the time to plan get-togethers with people you know, people you want to know better, and people you don't know at all! Invite someone to lunch, offer to make someone dinner, ask people to come along with your family to the movies. We are providing this TIME to help you make TIME for others. Who knows what the Lord will do as we make ourselves available to one another!

COMMISSIONING TODAY: TEXAS ROUNDUP! Following today's worship service, we will dismiss to Trinity Hall and meet in groups listed below to learn about this summer's mission adventures and have a hamburger and hotdog lunch together. There will be plenty of food - ALL are welcome!
People with last names beginning with:
A-G will begin in room 104
H-R will begin in room 107
S-Z will begin in room 108

LCM "TOO HOT TO COOK!" JUNE 5

Your patronage of the following participating restaurants on Tuesday, June 5 allows them to make a donation to the FOOD BOX of Longview Community Ministries to help feed hungry families in the area: Bodacious (6th St. location), Café Barron's, Casa Ole, Chick fil-A, Dudley's Cajun Café, McDonald's-GKC, Mi Casita, Papacita's, Pizza King, Shogun, Slim Chicken, Tele's, T Blanco, Wendy's.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

Sunday, June 3 — Infants: Tammy Moyes & Melissa Hudson;
Toddlers: Carrie Salmon & Noe Nelson
Sunday, June 10 — Infants: Chad & Liz Johnson;
Toddlers: Rob & Emily Holloway & Noe Nelson

SAFETY TEAM VOLUNTEERS:

June 3 — Keith Moyes & Jason Hunt
June 10 — Buck Otis & Chad Johnson

USHERS & GREETERS:

Morning openers—Bob & Barbara Linthicum
June Head Usher—Clay Brelsford
June 3 — Keith Moyes, Shane Best, Bill & Debbie Bankston
June 10 — Dave & Melanie Donaldson, Cindy & Clay Brelsford

THANK-YOU RECEPTION FOR EMILY HOLLOWAY

Please join us on Sunday, June 10th in Trinity Hall following the worship service to thank Emily Holloway for her service as our Children's Director. Please bring cards and notes that day as together we shower her with gratitude and love!

VBS JUNE 11-15

* To Register contact Jenny Hubbard @ hubbardnw@yahoo.com or register on the home page of our website www.epclongview.org.
* Volunteer training after the lunch **TODAY** and on Wednesday, June 6 at 5:30 p.m. All volunteers should attend one meeting. Both meetings will take place in Trinity Hall.
* VBS workdays will be June 4-8 from 10 a.m. to noon each day and 9th as needed. FINAL work day/set up day will be Sunday, June 10.

Longview Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Worship 9:30 • Sunday School 10:45

RULING ELDERS

Gena Bunn '18
Ginia Northcutt '18
Kathie Ramey '18
Daniel Bond '19
Michael McMahan '19
Matt Yost '19
Jim Brun '20
Kerri Daugbjerg '20
Eric Skoog '20

STAFF

Rev. Doug Ashley — Lead Pastor / dashley@epclongview.org
Rev. Shelley Kral — Associate Pastor / skral@epclongview.org
Jason Hubbard — Director of Youth Ministry / jhubbard@epclongview.org
Suzi White — Administrator / swhite@epclongview.org
Jenny Bond — Summer Children's Director / jennyb@epclongview.org
David Luna — Interim Music Director / dluna@epclongview.org

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