

## The Promise of Torah

The writer of Psalm 19 sings of God's perfect law, which revives the soul, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, and endures forever. Such exuberance is not motivated by rules meant to reprimand or censure. This law is not a required test to pass or a set of conditions to meet in order to be God's people. There is no fine print here.

God's promise, given through Moses in the Torah, declared that choosing God's way is the only path to freedom. The Torah is much more than decrees and commandments. When we use God's laws as edicts to shame each other, we create confusion, despair, and more bondage—the exact opposite of what God intends.

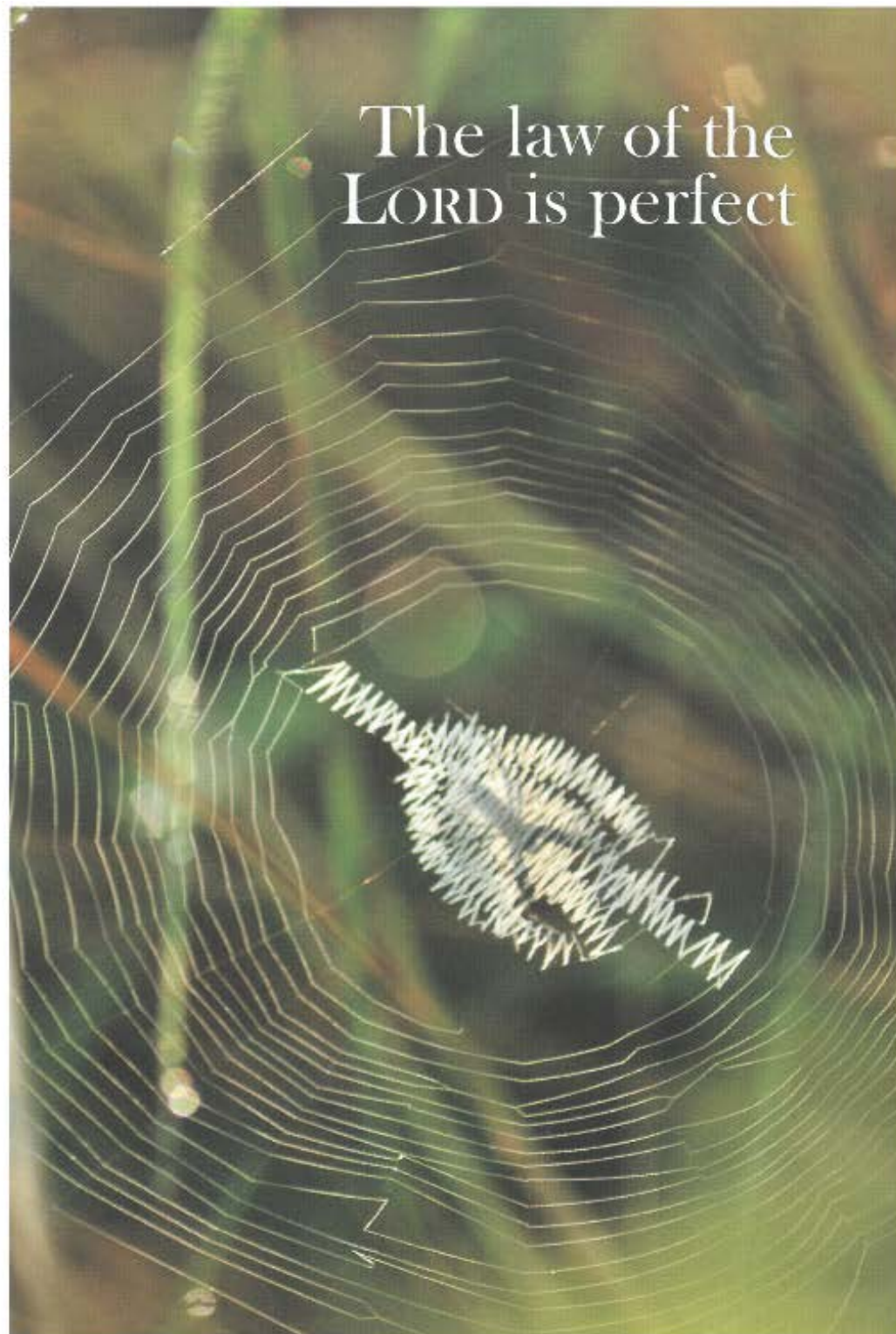
God's Torah is a practical guide for forming a community of blessing based on God's purposes of righteousness and mercy. We follow this path to blessed living by doing justice, loving kindness, walking humbly with God, and loving our neighbors.

We often allow ourselves to be enslaved by so many lesser gods: comfort, safety, family, our own interpretation of scripture, financial security. Commitment to the one true God offers the only real path to the freedom for which we yearn. God's way of blessing is more desirable than the greatest prize money can buy. God's way of love is more delicious than the finest taste we can imagine. God's way of living is the firm foundation, the security we need in this chaotic world. Will we choose it?

—Anita Smith Buckwalter  
Lansing Church of the Brethren  
Lansing, Michigan

**Text for today:** *"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb"* (Psalm 19:7-10, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 (7); 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

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**BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
at Worship March 4, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** (11:00) Two Chorale Preludes: *J. S. Bach*  
When on the Cross the Savior Hung  
O Humankind Your Sins Bemoan

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** Jeff Carr  
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

**CHERUB & CAROL CHOIR ANTHEMS** (11:00)  
**Cherub Choir** Into My Heart *Harry D. Clarke*  
The Wise Man and the Foolish Man *Traditional*  
**Carol Choir** God of All Creation *Erik Whitehill*  
(A Child's Prayer)  
Andrea Nolley, *flute*

**PROCLAIMING**

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00)  
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions. Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS** (11:00)  
Lynne Brumbaugh

**Congregational Affirmation** (*Unison*)  
*What a joy to have you as part of our family of faith! As you have reaffirmed your faith among us today, we also reaffirm our own. We now pledge to you our help, our prayers, and most of all our love as together we seek to follow Jesus and live the love of God.*

**\*HYMN # 577** *O Love that will not let me go* ST. MAGARET

**SCRIPTURE READING** Exodus 20:1-17 *NRSV*

**SANCTUS CHOIR ANTHEM** (11:00) How Long, O God  
arr. *Michael Burkhardt*

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 2:13-22 *NRSV*

**SERMON** "Rebuilding the Body" Jeff Carr

**RESPONDING**

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

**\*HYMN # 130** *O God of mystery and might* O GOD OF MYSTERY

**OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Prelude on "Healer of Our Every Ill" *David Chervien*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Silence**

**Praying with the Psalm**

Psalm 19

*concluding with The Lord's Prayer ("debts and debtors")*

**\*HYMN # 377** *Healer of our every ill*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Postlude *Alfred V. Fedak*  
"Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**March 4-10, 2018** (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.  
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

<b>Today</b>	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
	5:00	Sr. Hi. Movie / Discussion – Home of the Zepps	
<b>Tues.</b>	7:00	Executive Committee	Lounge
	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
<b>Wed.</b>	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Francesco's Lasagna and Cheese Ravioli, Salad, Bread</i>	
		<i>Suggested Minimum Donation: \$10 Adults / \$5 Kids</i>	
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YOrrfs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
	7:45	Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

### NEXT SUNDAY–March 11, 2018 – *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**Worship:** 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: "A Piece of Work"

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

**Bell Choir Rehearsal** – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

**Sunday School** – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

**Youth Sunday Night Live** – 6:30 p.m.

### SPRING POTTED FLOWERS

To order: envelopes (*available in the literature rack in the Greeting Hall*) with information and money are due in the church office by Wednesday, March 28. Suggested cost per plant: \$10.

## BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus  
and live the love of God.*

### ***Our Mission...***

*As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.*

### ***Our Values...***

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.  
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.  
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.  
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

### PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

**Jeff Carr** – Senior Pastor

**Chris Zepp** – Associate Pastor

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

**Fortunato Correa** – Custodian

**Phil Flory** – Treasurer

**Karissa Hunt** – Interim Financial Secretary

**Shannon Puffenbarger** – Administrative Assistant

**Leon Rhodes** – Head Teller

### PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

**Kathleen Arndt** – Child Care Center Administrator

**John Barr** – Organist

**Jim Benedict** – Bell Choir Director

**Jeanie Eye** – Christian Education Director

**Mary Beth Flory** – Pianist

**Marianne Houff** – Children's Choir Director

**Ellsworth Neff** – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

**Curtis Nolley** – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

**Clarke & Hope Staton** – Youth Ministry Coordinators

### CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

## SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

### **HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall**

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.**

*All Are Welcome* brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

**PARKING ASSISTANCE:** 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

### **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

**Fellowship Host** – Tim Kreps

**Pianist** (8:30) – Kathy Shrader

**Head Usher** – Palmer Lee Berry

**Sound & Light Technician** –

**Decorators** – Heather Barkey, Lori Lineweaver,  
Dwynn & Tony Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Mary Ann Angleberger

**Van Drivers** – Edgar Simmons (March 4, 11)

Teshome Molalenge (March 18, 25)

**Worship Leader** – Andrea Nolley

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 2/25/18**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 240 Sunday School: 150**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$15,645.00
Loose Offering	671.13
Church User Fees	100.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Wednesday Night Meals	386.00
Roof Repair	.82
John Kline Homestead	50.00
Bob McFadden Memorial Fund	100.00
Wayne Judd Memorial Fund	800.00
Elaine Smith Memorial Fund	150.00

### **INTO MY HEART: Harry D. Clarke**

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart lord Jesus.

Come in today come in to stay, come into my heart Lord Jesus.

Out of my heart, out of my heart, shine out of my heart Lord Jesus.

Shine out today Shine out to stay Shine out of my heart Lord Jesus.

### **THE WISE MAN & THE FOOLISH MAN: Matthew 7:24-27, adpt.**

The wise man built his house upon the rock  
and the rain came a tumbling down.

The rain came down as the floods came up  
and the house on the rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand  
and the rain came a tumbling down.

The rain came down as the floods came up  
and the house on the rock went splat!

So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the blessings will come tumbling down.

The blessings will come down as the prayers go up  
so build your house on the Lord!

### **GOD OF ALL CREATION: Erik Whitehill**

God of all creation, God of you and me,

we sing our praise, voices raised ev'ryday!

God who formed the heavens,

form in us to stay a humble, thankful heart, God, we pray.

God in times of trouble, shield us from dismay.

Please keep us safe from harm, God, we pray.

God of All, we offer all we are today.

Please help us follow you. God we pray.

### **HOW LONG, O GOD: Ralph F. Smith**

"How long, O God" the psalmist cries,

Alone, afraid, and far away from home.

The evil lurks within, without, it threatens to destroy

The fragile cords that make us one, that bind our hearts in joy.

Your grace, O God, seems far away; will healing ever come?

Our broken lives like broken still; will night give way to dawn?

How can we hope? How can we sing?

O God, set free our voices to name the sorrows,

Name the pain, that we might yet rejoice.

"How long, O God" the psalmist cries, a cry we make our own.

Though we are lost, alone, afraid, our God will lead us home.

## Directory Order Form

The wait is nearly over...our long-awaited directories will soon be here!

One (1) Pictorial Directory and one (1) Contact Info Directory in printed form will be available for every family unit in our congregation. Digital (PDF) versions of these directories will also be available. Additional copies may be available upon request.

In order to help us formulate accurate estimates for our printing orders and prepare for distribution, please take a moment to examine the form below, complete it as desired, and return it in the offering plate or to the church office as soon as possible. **YOU ONLY NEED TO RESPOND ONCE!**

- I/we would like to request additional print copies of the following (please indicate number of *additional* copies desired)

\_\_\_ 2017 Pictorial Directory

\_\_\_ 2017 Contact Info Directory

- \_\_\_ I/we would like to receive a print copy of the 2018 Organizational Directory (Boards, Commissions, etc)

- In addition to our print copies, I/we would like to receive a digital (PDF) copy of the following directories:

\_\_\_ 2017 Pictorial Directory

\_\_\_ 2017 Contact Info Directory

\_\_\_ 2018 Organizational Directory

- I/we would prefer only digital (PDF) copies of one or more of these directories. I/we surrender our print copies of the following:

\_\_\_ 2017 Pictorial Directory

\_\_\_ 2017 Contact Info Directory

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address (for digitals):** \_\_\_\_\_