

Life and Love in Jesus

Our text for today has some good news for all of us. The author of 1 John wants us to know that in Jesus God has been fully revealed, but not as an angry, out-to-get-you-for-the-sin-in-your-life kind of God. Rather, God is exactly like Jesus—the light of the world, the one who guides us through darkness, and the advocate for what is good and merciful and loving.

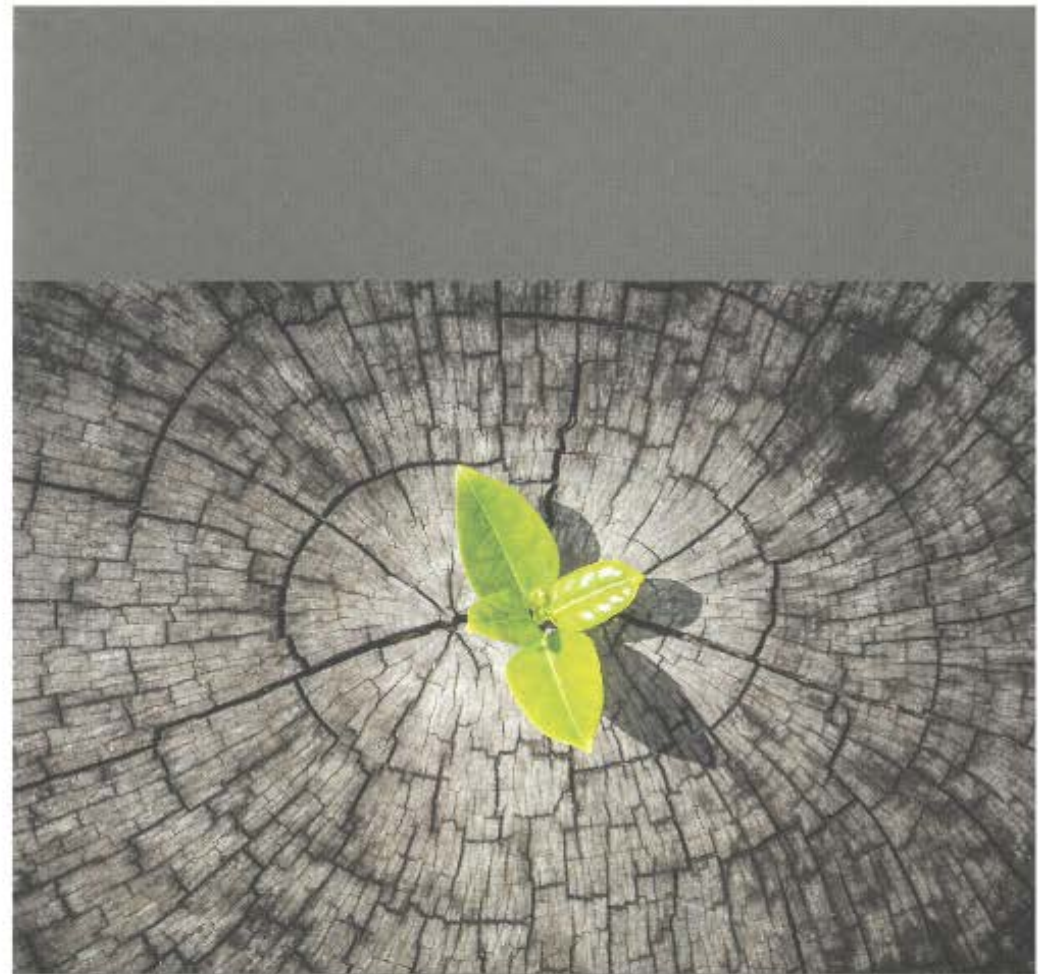
This is the disposition we should adopt with one another. When we come together in a spirit of genuine concern and compassion, as a church and as neighbors, our joy is made complete. This is where the words of life—the words of Jesus—are revealed. And these are powerful words for modern Brethren. How can our joy be made complete when some are quick to see others as enemies for simply disagreeing with them? How is this life revealed in Jesus? I wonder what those outside our circles learn about life and love in Jesus through our actions? Do they see something loving, or hateful?

I find it extraordinary that 1 John 2:1-2 speaks of Christ as an advocate for those that miss the mark and go against the light. To have such a forgiving and merciful advocate like Jesus is good news indeed! Life is revealed in the pivotal moment on the cross, when the very light of the world asks God to forgive us all: those who think they have it all right, those who believe they have no sin, those who refuse to listen—everyone. Life is revealed when Jesus says, “Forgive them,” and God responds, “Yes, that is what we’ll do.” This is life revealed. Let’s work for that kind of love.

—Eric Landrum, lead pastor
Littiz Church of the Brethren
Littiz, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this *life was revealed*, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:1-7, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2 (1:2); John 20:19-31.

01-08-18. Printed in the USA
Worship resource © 2018 Brethren Press. www.brethrenpress.com



Life
was revealed

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship April 8, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.
You wanna be where you can see,
our troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows your name.*

~ Refrain from "Where Everybody Knows Your Name"
Theme song from the classic TV show *Cheers*
by Gary Portnoy and Judy Hart Angelo

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Voluntary No. 1 in C *John Stanley*
[Adagio], Andante, [Slow], [Allegro]

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 worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God – Sing out! Sing a song of joy!

All: Glory! Hallelujah!

One: Sing for joy – for Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Love is persistent and joy is contagious. So sing praise –

All: For the light shining, death defeating, name of Jesus.

One: For the life and love we know in him.

All: And for this family of faith that embodies them both.

One: Sing, people of God!

All: Hallelujah!

***HYMN # 282** *Proclaim the tidings near and far* SING GLORY, HALLELUJAH

*INVOCATION PRAYER

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Janean Fawley
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.

ANTHEM (11:00) Good News Celebration *Dale Wood*

SCRIPTURE READINGS 1st John 1:1-4 *The Message*

SERMON Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

***HYMN # 305** *Where charity and love prevail* CHESHIRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

CAROL CHOIR ANTHEM (11:00)
What Wondrous Love is This arr. *Trevor Manor*
Katrina Kirilyuk, *violin*

OFFERING

Scripture Reading Acts 4:32-35 *The Message*

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Caprice on "This Joyful Eastertide" *John Barr*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

***HYMN # 421** *Bless'd be the tie that binds* DENNIS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00) "Christ rose from the bands of death" *J.S. Bach*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

Our Guiding Values – Part I

*We value sharing life together
and including all persons in our common life.*

To that end we:

- Strive for the inclusion and acceptance of all persons without exception, holding in love our relationships with one another and with God
- Bear each other's burdens; celebrate joy, grace, and mercy; give and receive forgiveness in the messiness of life
- Affirm that relationships matter
- Recognize that we live in a world created by God and shared with others
- Practice peace-building and pursue the things that make for peace
- Live as faithful and generous stewards of the Earth, our resources, and our relationships

We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes and includes all persons in our shared life together. Yet we recognize that our collective history and human imperfection has marginalized some in the past and causes some to question the sincerity of our welcome and inclusion in the present.

Therefore, we name the following for ourselves and for others: We value, love, and want to share life with persons of all theological, cultural and life backgrounds. We affirm our identities as children of God and embrace the diversity of our racial, ethnic, gender identities and sexual orientations. We welcome those of diverse relationships, social and family statuses. We embrace those of varying relationships with God, educational levels, physical and mental abilities, ages, and economic circumstances. We include conscientious objectors, those who serve and have served in the military, and persons of all political and ideological persuasions. We share our lives in all their joy and messiness as we live, grow, serve, and love together.

~Adopted by BWCOB Council August 25, 2013

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

April 8-14, 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.

Today	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Mon.	5:00	Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Finance Commission	Lounge
Wed.	8 a.m.	Bridgewater Ministers	Maple Terrace
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Papa John's Pizza, Veggies, and Chips</i>	
		<i>Suggested Donation: \$5 Adults / \$3 Kids</i>	
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YOrffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Friendship Circle – Home of Joyce Benedict	
	7:00	JOY Circle	Seekers Room
Thurs.	6:00	Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	7:00	Light Your World 5K	Harrison Park
	7:30	Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Concert - Sanctuary	

NEXT SUNDAY– April 15, 2018 – *Third Sunday of Easter*

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

Children's Worship during Worship at 11

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

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

Shenandoah Valley Choral Society – 3 p.m. – Sanctuary

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) – Ann Daggett

Head Usher – John Hipps

Decorators – Rebekah & Mikah Overman; Lori Lineweaver

Deacon Caregiver – Lori Lineweaver

Van Driver – John Flora

Worship Leader – Paul Roth

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Carlton C. Buck

Share the Good News Celebration! Sing His praises joyfully.

Share with ev'ry tribe and nation, Christ has come and sets us free.

Sing and praise Him! Sing and praise Him!

Worthy of our praise is He. Alleluia, alleluia!

Sing and praise Him joyfully!

Witness now with expectation, share the Gospel far and near;

Tell of Christ and His salvation, spread the news that all may hear.

Sing and praise Him! Sing and praise Him!

Worthy of our praise is He. Alleluia, alleluia!

Share the Good News Celebration! Share the news of God's design;

Let us sing jubilation. We are branches, He's the vine.

Alleluia! O sing and praise Him! Sing and praise Him joyfully!

© 1982 by Agape.

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717854

DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE!

2017 Pictorial Directories and 2018 Organizational and Congregation Contacts Directories are available. Pick yours up at the table in the Greeting Hall or contact the church office to obtain your copies. PDF copies are also available – contact the church office to receive them.

JUBILEE CIRCLE will not be meeting on April 11 as originally scheduled. Instead, be sure to catch the presentation by the planned speaker, Gladys Remnant, in the Altruistic Class this week.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 48th annual spring concert on Friday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The "Haydn Fest" concert will present choral and instrumental works by the classical giant Franz Josef Haydn. The SVCS choir will be accompanied by the SVCS chamber orchestra and guest soloists. Tickets are available at the door, locally from Choral Society members, Red Front Supermarket (Harrisonburg), Bridgewater Foods (Bridgewater), on-line at www.singshenandoah.org, and at the door. Admission is \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students.

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 4/1/18

Worship Attendance at 11:00: 383

Sunday School: 121

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$10,740.00
Loose Offering	1,061.00
Church User Fees	300.00
Miscellaneous	825.00
Roof Repair	1.86
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Contributions – Refugee	25.00
Spring Potted Easter Flowers	20.00
Nigeria EYN	50.00
Women's Fellowship	150.00
Decorating Committee	250.00
Seekers Sunday School Class	48.00
Elaine Smith Memorial Fund	50.00
Jesse Robertson Memorial Fund	50.00
Valley Keplinger Memorial Fund	175.00
Scouts Play It Forward	440.00

1 John 1:1-2:2 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
The Word of Life

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ We are writing these things so that our^[a] joy may be complete.

God Is Light

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christ Our Advocate

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.