

GATHERING

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: “With All My Heart, O God” Johann Walther

Invocation

God, you’ve given each one of us unique gifts and abilities and have called us to unique settings and these critical moments. Just as you used Joseph to fulfill your purposes in Egypt, we pray that you will also use us to impact our homes, families, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Open our spiritual and physical eyes to dream bigger than we have done before. In the power of Christ we pray, Amen.

*Hymn: #797 “We Cannot Measure How You Heal” (see insert)

Call to Confession

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God’s mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession, first in a moment of silent prayer. *From Beth Merrill Neel, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>, “Call to Confession,” accessed 8/11/20.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:
Hear our prayer.

There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
For fear of admitting our part in the separation,

For fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,

To a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*From Beth Merrill Neel, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>, “Unison Prayer of Confession,”

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

*From Beth Merrill Neel, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>, “Assurance of Forgiveness,”

***Response:** In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; In the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God: do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. (#654)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Victor Johnson

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: #629 “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee” (see insert)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15 NRSV

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Sermon: **Dreaming with Your Eyes Wide Open**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. *"A New Creed (1968)", The United Church of Canada,
<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/new-creed>.

The Peace of Christ

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Hymn: #772 "Live Into Hope" (see insert)

*Benediction

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: "Postlude for Full Organ" Stark

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! During the offertory the Friendship Book will be passed from the end of the pew. Please sign it and indicate other information as appropriate. Pass the book back down the pew and notice the names of the other worshippers. Greet one another warmly after the service.

WORSHIP HOUR INFORMATION:

It is an ancient Scottish custom for the pulpit Bible to be brought into the sanctuary and placed by a layperson before the service begins.

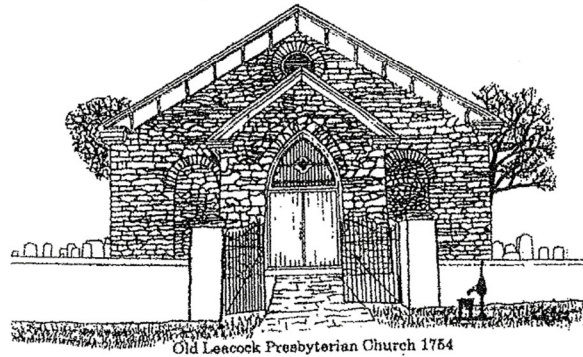
We welcome Jennifer Weitzel to the pulpit this morning. She is a second-year seminarian at Lancaster Theological Seminary with a B.A. in Organizational Leadership from Eastern University. Jennifer is on the Elder ordination track in the UMC. One of her finest church memories comes while living abroad and worshiping with people from all over the globe. She lives in Lancaster County with her husband and finds enjoyment in cross-stitching, traveling, and dancing in the kitchen with her three blonde-hair beauties (daughters). Her motto in life is, "You are seen. You are valuable. You are loved!"

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER PERSON THIS WEEK: **Muriel Meier**

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



Old Leacock Presbyterian Church 1754



**3181 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562
Telephone: 687-6619
www.leacockpres.org**