

First Sunday of Advent
Theme: Paying Attention

Sunday, December 1, 2024



“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.” Luke 21:25

GATHERING

Prelude: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” Robert Lau

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship Psalm 25:1-10

Leader: In you, Lord God, we put our trust. Don’t let those who wait for You be put to shame.

People: Lord, make us to know your ways and guide us in your truth.

Leader: For You we wait all day long, so teach us how to follow.

People: Remember us because you love us and are good.

Leader: Lord, remember your great mercy. Don’t remember the wrongs we have done.

People: The Lord is honest and good, teaching us to walk in Godly ways.

Leader: God shows those who aren’t proud how to do what is right.

People: All of the Lord’s ways are loving and faithful, helping us to obey what God’s covenant commands.

*Hymn: #267 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*Prayer of the Day

God of our Expectation, we praise you for surely-coming days when you will execute Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. We await with assurance the surely-coming days when cancer and AIDS are cured, when every gun is beaten into tools for rebuilding,

when every child has the opportunity to develop God-given gifts, and when every adult sees every child as a gift from God.

We desire, O God of our Hope, surely-coming days when no city fears hurricanes, no country fears nuclear bombs, and no tribe fears annihilation by another. We thank you for the surely-coming days when no person fears another because God chose to create all people in the diversity of God’s image. We thank you for our hope and for your surely-coming days. AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “Canticle of the Turning”
Solo- Jenny Keenan

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 and Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: “Surely Coming Days”

*Hymn: #94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN

Prayers of the People (*unison*)

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with our bazaar, our upcoming parties and feasts. We are with shopping and giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the things of

the holiday. And we confess that our busyness distracts us from a higher, more true purpose—that we spend more time preparing for “things” than for You or people. Draw us back to the center which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls also have work to do. Enable us to let go of those things that don’t truly matter in order to focus on what does. This we pray in Jesus’ name. AMEN

Source: “Hold Fast to What Is Good.” Beth Merrill Neel on her blog used with permission.

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #265 “Jesus Shall Reign”

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Beloved, go from this place blessed with a hope that takes root and grows.

People: We are prepared to notice, listen, and join in your transforming work among us. AMEN

Postlude: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Gordon Young
(please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Person this week: Taryn Shenk

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Mary & Carl Plomchok
on their Wedding Anniversary
Given by The Boas Family

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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



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