



“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.” Micah 5:2

GATHERING

Prelude: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” Mary McDonald

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: For an age, light has been slipping away, but now no further. With solstice night past, the death of darkness has come.

People: In the hearing of the darkness the light says: arise, shine, for your light has come.

Leader: This promise frees us and our world for an awakening so that days once shrunken are now filled with hope.

People: In the hearing of the darkness the light says: the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Leader: The days now begin to stretch, as the wombs of expectant mothers grow, pushing the edges of darkness, scraping it away with hope of new life.

People: In the heart of the deeper, human darkness a manger is ready, making room for the light.

Leader: As the age of brightness returns, the advent promise has found a place to chase the darkness away.

People: And in the hearing of the darkness the light says: for unto us a child is born unto us a son is given.

~ adapted from Roddy Hamilton of the New Kilpatrick Church, UK ~

*Hymn: #97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

*Prayer of the Day

Attentive and alert, we have prepared and waited in this special season. For some, the fullness of time comes in appreciated, treasured moments of daily living. For others, the fullness of time is known in special moments when family and friends gather. Against the darkness greater than any night, and toward the day that is brighter than any day, two young women embraced the pregnant news of their lives.

Later, star-struck shepherds kept watch on lone hillsides. Prayerfully we offer gratitude for these ordinary people who embraced the spectacular. Some say that God is so present, so real, so tangibly near in these moments that they can hardly believe that everyone does not see God as they do. Give us, we pray, moments and experiences to deepen our lives and service to You and to those in need. In the name of Bethlehem’s child, even Jesus, we pray, AMEN.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “Carols for Advent” Patrick Liebergen

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: “From Small Places Come Great Things”

Hymn: “How Great Our Joy!” *(please see insert)*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Grace, in the midst of a season so focused on shopping and finding the right gift, we give our gifts remembering that all our giving has its foundation in the amazing gift you gave to us: putting on flesh and coming in the form of a child, Emmanuel, God with us! May what we give today, and in

the days to come, be bathed in the knowledge that yours is the most perfect gift—the one we need the most. We pray in the holy name of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns
Hymn requests from the congregation received here

Prayers of the People

Hymn: “Thou Didst leave Thy Throne” *(please see insert)*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “While By My Sheep” 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 Family this week: George & Karen Shue

Announcements

Thanks to all the people who provided ingredients, who helped make our bonbons, and who purchased them this year. A special thanks to Loretta McClarigan for selling some of them in her shop. We made and sold more than 200 dozen and raised more than \$1603 for the fundraising fund.

The month of December is our **Christmas Joy Offering**--from Sunday Dec.1 through Sunday Dec.29. The envelopes are in the pews for your use or feel free to use a plain white envelope and mark it "Christmas Joy" and just place it in the offering plate. This offering helps retired and present church workers and also Christian students attending Presbyterian Colleges. Please remember these people and maybe include them in your Christmas giving.

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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