

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

GATHERING

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: “Take My Hand, Dear Jesus” Michale Shea

Invocation

**Call To Worship*

Leader: The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

People: For God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Leader: Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

People: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

Leader: They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.

People: Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Leader: Lift up your heads, your gates; be lifted up, your ancient doors, that the One who reigns in glory may come in.

*Hymn: #667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies” (see download)

Prayer of the Changing Season and Confession (*Unison*)

Holy God, the singular sound of the late summer—the chirping of the crickets—is upon us. As their praise rises to You, so may our praise likewise rise. Urge us by your Spirit toward gratitude for the time that is ours, with the realization that each day matters and that each day is a gift. Though daylight fades now by minutes and the lion’s share of summer weather is behind us, yet there comes the inviting and accessible gift of sunrises that will increase in crispness and sunsets, no longer sultry, timed perfectly for an after-dinner stroll.

Reassure us by the beauty of this season that you care for us and for our world. Forgive us when we fail to notice or appreciate, and rather take for granted the gift of all that is before us.

Likewise, we beg your mercy for those suffering from the extremes of heat and deadly fires, those greatly distressed by powerful winds and ravaging rains. May the light of Christ shine upon our fragile earth, our struggling nations, our beleaguered communities, and upon our own lives when we struggle. Reassure us that we are not alone and that You infinitely care, through the ever-present Christ, we pray, AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

***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: “For the Beauty of the Earth” Gordon Young

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn: #370 “This Is My Father’s World” (see download)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:1-2, 6-18

Sermon: **Pathway to the Future (Looking for Pastures in Wilderness Places)**

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Apostles Creed

The Peace of Christ

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Hymn: #686 "God of Our Life" (see download)

*Benediction
Silent Prayer

Postlude: "Maestoso" Rinck

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

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

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: **Robert & Marcia Brackbill**

We welcome Rev. Jim Shuler to the pulpit this morning. He grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia in a family of six children, one of whom is his twin brother. Life there brought a love of the outdoors and nature which continues to this day. In addition to being pastor of Pine Grove Presbyterian in Airville for 32 years, he has served on the staff of Synod School, Camp Donegal and Christian Education, and is a former moderator of Donegal Presbytery. Currently he continues to serve on the Leader Team of Donegal Presbytery while renovating his home in Joppatowne, MD.

Next Sunday is **Old Leacock Day!**

There will be no church service at Paradise next Sunday. We will celebrate with a 9:30 a.m. service of worship at **Old Leacock** with our Potluck Picnic to follow immediately afterwards. The CCL Committee will provide hot dogs, buns, drinks, cups, plates, napkins and condiments. We invite you all to bring a covered dish to share and a chair to sit on while you eat and visit with your church friends celebrating our heritage of worshipping at Old Leacock!



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



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