

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 2020

## *GATHERING*

Announcements and Greeting

*Prelude:* “Ode to Thanksgiving” Beethoven

Invocation

*(You are invited, in silence, to read the invocation as the pastor prays it)*

One: Bring us to you, we pray; you love us more deeply than our mothers and more fiercely than our fathers.

Bring us to you, we pray; in flesh, you offered love in your living and dying, and now you are embodied within, without, and beyond us, as Lord.

Bring us to you, we pray; you are life-giver, source of all good gifts and divine intimacy with us.

**All:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bring us to you, we pray. Amen.

*Let us worship God!*

*\*Hymn:* #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (see download)

*Prayer of Confession*

One: Let us, in silent prayer, meditate on the world’s brokenness and our own alienation, and present them transparently to God (silent reflection). Let us pray:

**ALL: God, whose mercy exceeds our comprehension of our need for it: By bringing no joy to worship, we slight you. Through our inability to forgive and serve other members of your body, we break your heart. Through our self-indulgent willingness to ignore your justice, loving kindness, and calling to trust and obedience, we participate in your crucifixion. Our abuse of your pride and joy, your lovely creation, is blasphemy. Lord, forgive us, heal us, and transform us into ministers of reconciliation. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon—* (1 Corinthians 5:17-21)

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**ALL: In Christ, all is new, including us. Help us to live into our rebirth.**

One: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who

has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

**ALL: We, the wandering one-time lost, are now entrusted to seek out and find.**

One: In Christ, God was reconciling the entire world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

**ALL: The alienation of past, present, and future has ended in all-consuming love, and this is our good news to share with all people.**

One: We are ambassadors for Christ!

**ALL: We are God’s messengers, God’s missionaries, God’s emissaries, the incarnation of God’s invitation to all people to trust, love, and embrace new life.**

One: We are Christ’s body, the saving power of God fleshed out; we are God’s amazing justice on display for all to see.

**ALL: We are becoming what all sinners, now made right, are to become. Amen.**

*\*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:* “Wondrous Love” Gordon Young

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

*\*Hymn:* #39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (see download)

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, Mark 13:1-37 (selections)

Sermon: **The End of the World: Performance Number 2000+**

## *RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD*

*\*Affirmation of Faith –* Apostles Creed

*The Peace of Christ*

Invitation to Offer to God Our Lives, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts  
*The Offering*

\*Hymn: #804 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” (see download)

\*Benediction

*Silent Prayer*

*Postlude:* “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Robert Lau

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:**

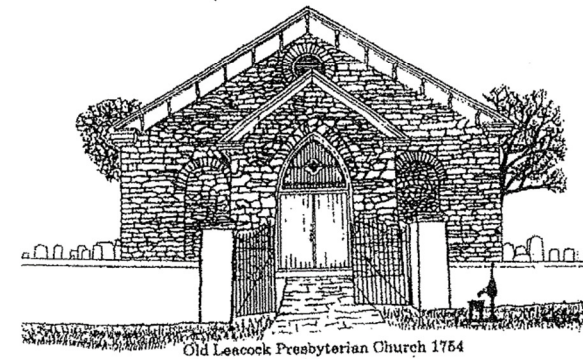
**PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: Derek, Molly & Finn Colton**

The Session calls a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, November 21 for the purpose of receiving the 2022 budget, electing officers, and concurring with Rev. Birch’s request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with Leacock, effective January 16, 2022.

This morning we welcome **Pastor Sam Massey** to the pulpit. He, his wife Susan, and their basset hound Clover have moved to Lancaster, PA to be near their older son, his wife, and their new granddaughter. Sam has served churches small and large, in a variety of contexts, in the Midwest and East. This service includes Paxton, Illinois, which lies near the farm on which Susan was raised. Susan is the Master of Education Program Director for Upper Iowa University, a position that allows her to live in Lancaster and work online. Sam and Susan have two sons, Will (in Lancaster) with his wife Yana and one-year old daughter Lola; Will serves Highland Presbyterian Church as staff person for mission and youth. Yana advocates for women in business. Sam’s younger son, Daniel, is in training to be a photographer and remains in Iowa for now. Sam was an associate pastor at Lancaster’s First Presbyterian years ago, so this move feels like a return home to the Masseys. While Sam loves the amenities offered by the city, he also loves the land and the wisdom of those who labor on it. The Masseys are pleased to be with us today.

# *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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