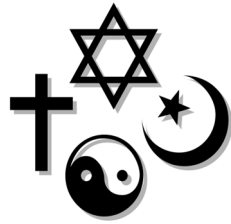


Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Theme: The Stewardship of Freedom



“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” Deuteronomy 6:4

GATHERING

Prelude: “God of Our Fathers” Gilbert Martin

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather this morning appreciating both the freedom and responsibility to worship God.

People: May God continue to lead the Church of Christ in this land and around the world toward the kingdom of peace which is promised.

Leader: May we remember the challenging words of Jesus that many are called but few are chosen.

People: We draw near to the God who rules over all nations and peoples.

Leader: We embrace what seems like the impossible, seeking to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.

People: May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us to understand it begins with us, in our hearts and in our actions.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of this Earth, the Prince of Peace, the One who is the Giver of all things good!

*Hymn: #338 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (see download)

*Prayer of the Day and Intercession:

Almighty God, we lift up our nation and its great needs. Make us true to the ideas of freedom and justice; of brotherhood and sisterhood for all. May we

continue to strive to make what we call great, truly great. Guard us from pride, from fear and confusion. Give us true dedication and resolve.

Be close to those in public service, giving them the vision and courage so desperately needed for our time. As they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of our world, the sustainability of our planet, and the making of a community of nations, make us more deeply aware of our own heritage, realizing not only our rights but our duties and responsibilities as well.

As citizens of the heavenly realm, reclaim us for the true purposes for which we were made. Enable us to embrace more clearly your will, that we may fulfill the destiny ordained for us and for all, in the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray, AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: To You, the God, who can only set free.

People: To we who are charged as were the early disciples, that what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and what we set free on earth will be set free in heaven. Matt. 18:18

Leader: In humility we accept the challenge and power of these words, that God will welcome back those we receive anew; that those with whom we reconcile, God will reconcile as well.

Sung Response: Hymn #357 “The Days Are Surely Coming “(*verse 1 only*)
“The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth, when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth. My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.”

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14 and Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon: **“The Bounds of Freedom”**

*Hymn: #753 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” (see download)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ever Creating God, bring hope to this world that You love. May our gifts bring honor to you name in this place and beyond. Grow in us compassionate living and freedom of spirit, we pray. AMEN

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #331 "God of the Ages" (see download)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Mary McDonald

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who are able, please stand

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

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: David & Carol Berkhimer

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Thanks to the Leacock Church family for all your prayers, cards and letters, phone calls and words of encouragement.

**And in Celebration of our 54th Wedding Anniversary
Given by Skip and Marie Brackbill**

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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