

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Theme: The Stewardship of Potential: Nets Cast into the Sea



"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea and catching fish of every kind"
Matthew 13:47



GATHERING

Prelude: "But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own" Mendelssohn

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

***Call to Worship** Psalm 124

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let the people now say --

People: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us.

Leader: Then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

People: Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

Leader: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

People: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

*Hymn: #681 "This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made" Psalm 118 (see download)

*Prayer of the Day

O God, we praise your abiding guidance, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. You are the One who inspired faithful disciples to leave their traditional nets and pick up

other ones. We offer prayers of love today on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures. Open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 13:47-50

Sermon: "A Diverse and Inclusive Kingdom" (Fish of Every Kind)

*Hymn: #721 "Lord, You Have Come to the Lake Shore" (see download)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ever-faithful God, we long to be faithful givers, modeling ourselves on you who have given everything to us. May your Spirit of abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, grace these gifts for your kingdom in Jesus' name, AMEN.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

All Worshipers

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: "Peter Said, 'I'm Going Fishing'"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, PCUSA pastor and composer
(Tune: Beecher/"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

1 Peter said, "I'm going fishing," so his friends went out with him. Through the night, they labored, watching, hauling empty nets back in. In the grey of early morning, Jesus, you came walking by. From the beach you called a greeting, "Cast out on the other side!"

2 Soon their nets were filled to brimming; someone cried, "It is the Lord!"
Jumping in, he started swimming; Christ, you met him on the shore.
Guiding them to better waters, eating fish and sharing bread -
you showed Peter and the others: You were risen from the dead!

3 Risen Christ, you send us fishing! God's great sea is everywhere.
You have guided us in mission, you have given love to share.
Through the years, our church has heard you, we have answered your great call:
"Cast your nets where I have told you. Bring my Word of love to all!"

4 Lord, be with our congregation; by your Spirit, send us forth!
May we care for your creation; may we work for peace on earth.
In our worship, in our giving, in our serving those in need,
may we know, Lord; you are living, guiding us in ministry.

Source: Singing the New Testament #112

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“High Praise”

Rachel Sawyer

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 Person this week: Robert Brackbill

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Celebration of our Daughter & Granddaughter
Kristen Ankney's 35th Birthday 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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