

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Theme: Season of Creation—"A mighty river can move mountains."



"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and on each side, the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22: 1-2

GATHERING

Prelude: "High Praise" Hugh Livingstone

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

***Call to Worship and Litany of Confession**

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows God's handiwork.

People: O God of Creation: You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced, Lord have mercy.

Leader: You, O God, created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled, Christ have mercy.

People: You created Mother Earth, our common home, which sustains us. Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions, Lord have mercy.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our ecological sins, and inspire us to care for our common home, AMEN.

*Hymn: #32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (see download)

*A Corporate Prayer of Penitence

Gracious God, Creator Spirit, Source of life, You have given order, light and life to the world around us, and You have expressed delight in Your creation. You commanded us to till and care for the garden of life. And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of Your creation and neglected to keep Your Word.

As we worship today, we seek Your mercy and forgiveness for the times that we have offended against the integrity of this creation we are privileged to call home. AMEN

The Gloria: As we sing the Gloria, let us remind ourselves that we are praising and celebrating God as the author of our universe. (#531)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon: "Can God Forgive Us?"

* Hymn: #623 "I've Got Peace Like a River" (see download)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Doxology (#606)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we give in grateful thanksgiving for the world you have created and all that You have given us. Help us to use our privilege and power to support, not oppress, all around us. Let us be, as was Jesus, "kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." In the upside down world of the gospel, help us to live generously and graciously, blessing your church, your people, and your creation. AMEN

Sharing Joys and Concerns

All Worshipers

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #5 “God The Sculptor of the Mountains” (see download)
(Sung to the tune of #347)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

David Lasky

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: Alba Buck

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Betty Taylor
Given by her daughters Dianne & Lois and their families

Announcements

Following worship today the **Deacons** will meet in the Library.

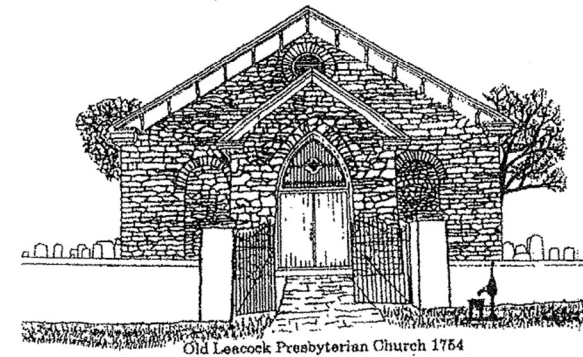
There will be **Choir rehearsal** in the Choir Room following worship.

September 26th birthday:

Jane Witmer—Ephrata Manor Rm #107, 99 Bethany Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522

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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