

Second Sunday of Advent
Including Lighting of the Advent Candles
THEME: Our Shocking Hope—Our Spirit Waits

Sunday December 10, 2023



“The days are surely coming when all promises of the Holy One will be fulfilled.” Jeremiah 33:14

GATHERING

Prelude: “Aria on “Light One Candle” Michale Burkhart

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

*Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle

Leader: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

People: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

Leader: As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes the nations to quake before you!

People: For God does awesome things we do not expect. God will come down and the mountains will tremble.

Leader: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval, our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls us—

People: “Therefore, keep awake, or you do not know when the master of the house will come.”

Leader: So we wait as people surprised again and again by God.

People: We wait for a God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Leader: We light today’s candles as a sign of our shocking hope.

People: May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us and this world to the fullness of life as intended from the beginning of all things.

* Hymn: #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (With Bell Choir) (verses 1,6 &7)

*Prayer for the Day

Lord, we have pulled out the Advent wreath, the Christmas tree, the poinsettias. We dusted off the hymns unsung for a year, and are singing them. These weeks we now unearth the words of your prophets. Yet, in your eyes, these efforts are for nothing without the regular, persistent, deep pursuit of the justice called for by these lone voices.

We confess that our efforts are hollow without consistent work toward peace, reconciliation, and participation in your mission for creation. In our hearts, we do long to be your people, to carry out your mission, to be lights in the darkness—proof that no darkness can overcome your truth.

Awaken us to action. Stir us to courage. Rouse us to prepare a way in the wilderness for your coming, clearing the brush of oppression, racism, injustice, and hopelessness—so that all may see your light and perceive your coming.
AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)” arr. Wagner

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Sermon: “No Ear Has Heard Nor Eye Seen”

*Hymn: #99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts including Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Gracious God, with our gifts we declare that our hope lies in you. We trust you to provide all that we need, and so we are secure in offering the gifts we bring. May each gift serve your purposes here and in the world around. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People...beginning with a poem "Wade In" by Rev. Sarah Reed

* Hymn: #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Lyndell Leatherman

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

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

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Person this week: Linda Erikson

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory
of our father, Warren H. Brackbill
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill**

Announcements

Deacons: Poinsettias for At-home Members are in the Narthex.

Thanks to all the people who provided ingredients, helped make our bonbons, and purchased them this year. A special thanks to Loretta McClarigan for selling some of them in her shop. We made and sold around 200 dozen and raised more than \$1320 for the fundraising fund.

If you would like to order **Sanctuary Flowers** in Memory of or in Honor of someone or a special occasion, Sunday, December 17 and Sunday, December 31 are available.

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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