

First Sunday of Advent
Including Lighting of the Advent Wreath
THEME: Season of Hope

Sunday December 3, 2023



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

GATHERING

Prelude: “Advent Carols” Robert Lau

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Something stirs deep within us—a longing, a hope. . .

People: A thirst for joy, hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.

Leader: We know deep within our hopes and fears.

People: We trust they will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

Leader: It is Advent!

People: Season of waiting, hoping, and yearning.

Leader: Advent!

People: A time to wait eagerly with hope.

*Hymn: #93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Prayer of the Day

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer. In your Kingdom, O Lord, you bring your people safety and comfort. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer. AMEN

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Christ, the Light of the World, is our light. By grace this light has come into the world and continues to come.

The Faith We Sing—As we sing throughout this service, share the selections you wish to sing. Advent and Christmas hymns are located between pages 82 and 156 in our *Glory to God* hymnal.

Two Hymn Requests welcomed: _____

Scripture: Mark 13:24-26

Leader: But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

People: And the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Leader: Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

Two Hymn Requests welcomed: _____

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture:

“Then the Son of Man will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.” Mark 13:27

Two Hymn Requests welcomed: _____

Scripture: Mark 13: 28-29

Leader: From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

People: So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the Son of Man is near, at the very gates.

Message: “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

(Hymn #94 - Either sung or read as a meditation with the music quietly in the background).

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts. . . including Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Abundant Gifts, may our simple gifts transform our own hearts, uphold the outreach of our churches, and bless the communities around us hungry for good news. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Two Hymn Requests welcomed: _____

Prayers of the People

* Hymn: #104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (Tune: All Glory Laud and Honor)

Charge and Benediction:

Leader: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

People: Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

Leader: And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Postlude: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" Robert Lau
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: Stephan Englehart

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Nancy Marie Brackbill
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill**

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



**3181 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562
Telephone: 687-6619
www.leacockpres.org**