

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Including Lighting of the Advent Candles
Theme: The Days Are Surely Coming: Our Shocking Hope

Sunday, November 30, 2025



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

The Women of Advent: Sun. Nov. 23 Reign of Christ Sunday (Christ the King)-Anticipation(Ruth). Nov. 30-Hope; Dec. 7-Peace(Rahab); Dec. 14-Joy(Anna); Dec. 21-Love(Mary)

GATHERING

Prelude: “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gordon Young

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: #99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

Lord, we have pulled out the Advent wreath, the Christmas tree, the poinsettias soon to follow. We will dust off the hymns unsung for a year, and will sing them today going forward. These weeks we now unearth the words of your prophets and the stories of the women of Advent. Yet, in Your eyes, these efforts are for nothing without the regular and persistent pursuit of Your divine purposes 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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, we are part of the new heaven and new earth.

People: In God’s love, we greet one another in the spirit of reconciliation and peace.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 and Ruth 1-4 (*selected readings*)

Sermon Series: **The Women of Advent**
“Naomi and Ruth - When Hope Becomes a Reality”

*Hymn: #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

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 whenever we offer them. May each gift serve your purposes here and in the world around. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #106 "Prepare the Way of Zion"

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Over and again, we will tell this story.

People: Over and again, people will find hope.

Leader: In a weary world, there will yet be rejoicing.

People: In a weary world, we will be the standard bearers of that very hope.

Leader: So go, go boldly and confidently in the name of our God.

Silent Prayer (*be seated*)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. AMEN

Postlude: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Gordon Young

(Please remain seated)

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

The Prayer Family this week is: Ehren, Lauren & Desmond Graybill

**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.*



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