

GATHERING

Welcome

*Hymn: #14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

A Time of Silence What We are Thankful for

Hymn: #35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (p. 193)

When It's Hard To Be Thankful

A Liturgy of Thankfulness *written by Rev. Tracey Marx*

Leader: Let us pray together.

It's hard to give thanks, O God, when our hearts are heavy.

When we want something so much.

When what we know is right feels so right and yet it does not come.

People: It's hard to give thanks when other men and women of faith,
My colleagues, my friends, whom I respect and admire
Feel so differently than I do.

Leader: It's hard to give thanks, O God, when our hearts are hurting
At the possibility that something we love so much will be no longer,
A friendship, a work, a way.
It is so hard sometimes....to let go.

People: It's hard to give thanks, O God, when my heart is hurting.
At the possibility that my plans, so carefully planned, will not happen.
It is so hard sometimes ... to let go.

Leader: It's hard to give thanks when we can see both sides of the question, the
debate, and yet need to choose.

People: It is so hard sometimes to choose.

Leader: We are weak, O Lord. Mere human beings doing the best that we can
To be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us.

People: I am weak, O Lord. A mere human being who is in pain,
Over the challenges of agreeing to disagree when so much is at stake.

Leader: We are weak, O lord. When it comes to trusting others, trusting the path
To a decision.

People: When it comes to trusting you. And trusting you on the path to a decision.

Leader: We are strong, O Lord, only with your strength.

People: We are strong, O Lord, only when we remember that we are better together as
A community than we ever could be apart.

Leader: We are strong, O Lord, when we claim our identity not as participants on a
Certain side of a question or debate at hand,

People: But as Christians united in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Give us kindness, O God, when it is hard to be kind.

People: Give us patience, O God, when we our supply runs out.

Leader: And grant us forgiveness, O Gracious God, we do pray, for any way in which
We have allowed forces that are not of you

People: To push us into behavior, words or thoughts that do not give you glory.

Leader: And hear our silent prayers, as each of us speaks to you from the heart.

People: Surrendering to you, O Lord. Only to you.

Leader: Guide and direct our conversation, O God.

People: May it be pleasing in your sight, in the name of Jesus. Amen

Hymn: “Give Thanks” (see next page)

Remembering Gratitude

Hymn: #37 “Let All Things Now Living”

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us for
worship this Thanksgiving eve. We hope that you have a blessed Thanksgiving and
we invite you to join us in worship at our Paradise location Sunday morning.

All glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for the grace we have received.

PRAISE THE LORD! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

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A Service of Thanksgiving

Old Leacock Presbyterian Church

November 23, 2016

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name." Psalm 100:3,4

