

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

GATHERING

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose" Gordon Young

Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Call To Worship*

Leader: The desert shall blossom; our life will be restored.

People: Let us rejoice in the promise of the Lord.

Leader: With the coming of Christ, God's kingdom is at hand.

People: Let us rejoice in the healing of the Lord.

Leader: Night's darkness will end.

People: Let us rejoice as we wait for the light.

**Hymn:* #83 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (with the Bell Choir)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of life, with Jesus' birth, you began the renewal of creation. When he comes again, that work will be completed. But around us, we still see the marks of darkness. Then, it can be hard to wait for the Lord. Then, it can be hard to keep the faith. Heal us, Lord, even now. Help us to believe. Show us the light already around us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Choral Response:** In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; In the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God: do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. (p.654)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem: "Advent Meditation" D. Wagner
The Bell Choir

Children's Sermon

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-7 (p.623)

**Hymn:* #92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

Second Scripture Reading: James 5:7-11 (p.217)

Sermon: **Trusting the Dawn**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Affirmation of Faith* – Apostles Creed (p.17)

The Peace of Christ

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Robert Lau

Doxology (p.606)

**Hymn* #100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

**Benediction*

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Choral Response: "Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you."(p.748)

Postlude "Sleepers, Wake!" Lyndell Leatherman

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

As you leave worship, greet all with the Peace of Christ

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of James Weaver
Given by his family

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! During the offertory, the Friendship Book will be passed from the end of the pew. Please sign it and indicate other information as appropriate. Pass the book back down the pew and notice the names of the other worshippers. Greet one another warmly after the service.

WORSHIP HOUR INFORMATION:

It is an ancient Scottish custom for the pulpit Bible to be brought into the sanctuary and placed by a layperson before the service begins.

NURSERY (babies through 4 yrs.): **NURSERY PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.**

Please see an usher if you would like to take your children to the nursery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & HELPER

This Sunday: Emily Birch & Linda Erikson

Next Sunday, December 22: Danielle Short & Carol Berkheimer

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: **Stephan Englehart**

<u>TODAY</u>	9:30 a.m.	Worship Paradise
	10:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Christmas Caroling
<u>MONDAY</u>	9:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Trustee Mtg.
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
<u>THURSDAY</u>	7:00 p.m.	Session Mtg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last day to order **Poinsettia Plants** for next Sunday. The forms are in the Narthex. Completed forms and payment can be put in the secretary's box outside the office door.

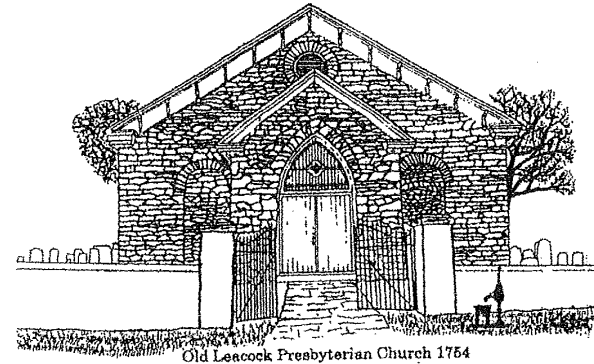
Christmas Caroling is today! Following church service, we meet for a light lunch then carpool to visit our at-home members. We'll be spreading Christmas cheer by singing carols and delivering a small gift. Please plan to join us. Christmas carols sound so much better with more voices!

December is **Christmas Joy Offering**. Special giving envelopes are in the pews for the month. As we celebrate this Advent and Christmas season, let us also celebrate the gift and example Christ has given us with our generosity of spirit.

Please remember our **At-Home Members** this Christmas. The list of names and addresses is in the Narthex.

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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