

Second Sunday of Advent
Including Lighting of the Advent Candles
THEME: Our Just Peace: Our Spirit Waits

Sunday, December 17, 2023



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

GATHERING

Prelude: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blowing” Jason Payne

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

*Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

People: As the morning dawns, we watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Leader: You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

People: We watch and wait in the fierce joy of what the coming Messiah will bring.

Leader: Beloved, listen. God is calling us. To be freed and to free our neighbors. To be healed and to heal our community.

People: To testify to the light among us. Therefore we watch and wait in fierce joy.

Leader: So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

People: In the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah, we gather to watch, to wait, and to worship AMEN

* Hymn: #97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Prayer for the Day

Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. We confess that our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. Bring us impossible joy and the confidence to travel on as we give you thanks. AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” Michael Helman

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sermon: “Through Fits and Starts”

*Hymn: #94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”
(*Sung to Suo Gan, a Welsh lullaby*)

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Offerings including Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Abundant Gifts, may our simple gifts transform our own hearts, helping to bring about the fulfillment of your coming. Upholding the spirit of this Advent Season, we give in confidence knowing we and this world are yours. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess the sin of this world, the sin of which we, too, are a part. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken

world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. AMEN**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world. . .

* Hymn: #104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “From Heaven Above” Gordon Young

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: David Erikson

**The Sanctuary Flowers are with remembrance, compassion and love, wishing strength and peace for all Veterans and their families
Given by Elaine & Joe Gouba**

Announcements

New Offering Envelopes will be available in the pews and the back of the sanctuary for 2024. Please put your name and /or current envelope number on the envelope if you want credit for tax purposes. If donating for other purposes please mark on the envelope what it is for. While the church is saving money on envelopes the Trustees do not want this to be too confusing. Thank you all. David Berkhimer

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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