Service of Worship

Leeds Community Church

December 5, 2021 Rev. Steve Allman, pastor of LCC

*\* You may stand.*

PRELUDE

BELLS

WELCOME

ENTERING SACRED SPACE

“Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.” -Thomas Merton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 1:68-79)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.**

he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant.

**By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

\*HYMN #5 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and righteous God, far too often we fall short of the holiness you invite us into. And often we fail to live up to your righteous standards for how we are called to live. Refine us with your righteous refiner’s fire to remove all our sinful impulses and impurities. Cleanse us with the fullers’ soap to make us pure and holy once again. Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.**

*Time for silent confession*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

﻿﻿﻿﻿We are not perfect, but we don’t need to be. God in Christ is! And God in Christ has taken care of us and this world once again: “Every valley shall be filled … and the rough ways made smooth.” In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! Brothers and sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (579)

PREPARE TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Malachi 3:1-4 (pp. 889-890 OT), Luke 3:1-6 (p. 60 NT)

SERMON “Seeing the salvation of God”

SPECIAL MUSIC “In the Bleak Midwinter” Pierce Pettis (from recording)

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

\*DOXOLOGY #592

\*HYMN #8 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE  **#**2235-a (in *Sing the Faith*) “We Are Walking”

\*GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Calendar of Events: (see insert)

**Biography:**

Rev. Allman is happy to be serving in Leeds. He grew up in eastern Pennsylvania and spent time in sales and teaching before attended of the ing Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Before coming to Maine, he served churches in West Virginia, New York, and South Dakota. He’s currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry Degree at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. You can reach him at (207) 240-2958 or revallman@gmail.com.

ELDERS: Brenda Lake Bill Flewelling

Larry Jewett Barbara Grant

DEACONS: Patricia Leblond Irene Woodward

 Donna Holt

 Bill Grant Sandy Nutting

 Sue Jewett Joyce Pratt

The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** is shared on the first Sunday of each month.

The first Sunday of each month we collect bottles to benefit the **accessibility fund**.

DEACONS – first Monday of every month, 6:00 p.m.

SESSION – Wednesday, 12/15/21, 2 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9am on Sunday

Website: www.leedscommunitychurch.org Like us on Facebook

Email: leedscommunitychurch.me@gmail.com phone: (207) 524-5444

Clerk of Session: Jane Wheeler

Chair of Deacons: Sandy Nutting

Church Treasurer: Barbara Grant

Organist/Choir Director: Eileen Coyne

**Leeds Community Church**

We are a Christian church that is committed to carrying out the mission of Christ. We, therefore, are socially active. Our church is open to all people, regardless of background or any other status. “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family” is never far from thought. We pray that every person will feel acceptance, the love of Christ, the joy of the Holy Spirit, and the wonder of God’s grace.

