Service of Worship

Leeds Community Church

January 8, 2023 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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 29)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

**May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

\*HYMN #147 “Blessing and Honor”

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior, for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your steadfast love, have mercy on us and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace. Amen.**

*Time for silent confession*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As God’s voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: “You are my beloved children, and with you I am well pleased.” 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 Isaiah 42:1-9 (p. 670-671 OT), Matthew 3:13-17 (p. 3 NT)

SERMON “Baptism”

\*HYMN #466 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*DOXOLOGY #592

COMMUNION

\*HYMN #510 “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #438 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” first verse

\*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 attending 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 Jane Wheeler

Larry Jewett Barbara Grant

DEACONS: Patricia Leblond Irene Woodward

 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, 5:30 p.m.

SESSION – Wednesday, January 18, 1 p.m.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH – begins at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary

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.

