

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Reedsville, Pennsylvania



October 24, 2024
11:15 am
27th Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ
Celebrating the First Thanksgiving and
Gratitude for the Gifts of the First Peoples.

Congregation reads text in BOLD

*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

GATHERING

WELCOME:

Welcome on this Sunday after the first snow, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Sunday wrapping up our church year affirming the realm of Christ for all peoples and all time.

ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

CENTERING THOUGHT:

Native Americans aren't the only people who have rejected Christianity and its ties to a history of oppression. Yet native authors and elders who have recreated the gospel in the language of the first peoples "present a simple path to faith—inviting people to be all they can be through a renewed relationship with Creator's son."

Creating and sustaining God, we thank you for the gifts shared between pilgrims and First Peoples at the first Thanksgiving. Help us to renew our faith and open our hearts to the Jesus Story as told by their descendants.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Turning to the four directions in prayer is part of many worship traditions. In this Call to Worship integrating a Native American tradition, Christ is celebrated as the center of all creation and life. Each direction signifies an aspect of God's gifts to the earth and to earth's people.

We experience this tradition by standing and turning to the four directions as cued or if sitting extend your hands and eyes to the east, south, west and north as indicated in the sanctuary. We begin at center, our center, Christ center before turning to each direction.

Christ the Center

We begin facing towards the cross. (pause)

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, come wisdom and knowledge, the power of thinking. We face East and pray: (pause) Enable us, O God, to be wise in our use of the

resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. We learn from your creation that life is a sacred circle, of which there is no beginning and no end.

We are all related. Lord, hear our prayer.

From the South comes guidance, the beginning and end of life, the power of planning. Let us face South (all face South, pause) and pray: May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you renewing the face of the earth.

We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.

From the West come purifying waters, the source of all life. We face West (pause) and pray that the Holy Spirit of God may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray: We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth.

We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.

From the North come purifying winds. Though they are not seen we have faith; we have faith in the voice of God. Let us face North (all face North, pause) and let us pray: O God, you have been called breath and wind of life. May the air we breathe be purified so that life may flourish.

We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.

*HYMN: PH #560 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

(based on Hebrews 4:15-16, and echoing John 18:33-37)

Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses; in every respect tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

READER/S #1: The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

READER/S #2: The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

READER/S #3: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

*PEACE OF CHRIST:

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

And, also with You.

*GLORIA PATRI:

***Glory to be the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: First Testament: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34 (FNV)

MESSAGE: *The Language of Gratitude*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN: STF #2223 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(from Christian and traditional First Peoples traditions)

I am one with the Great Spirit, the giver of life. I walk on this Earth with respect and gratitude, honoring all creatures, both seen and unseen. I pledge to live in harmony with nature, taking only what I need and giving back to the land. May my actions reflect the wisdom of my ancestors and the love of the Creator.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER: (Native American version)

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe, You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place. Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread day by day. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil. For everything belongs to you. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY:

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN: PH #554 *Let All Things Now Living*

*CHARGE AND BENECTION

* PH #587 *Amen*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

- November 24 **Our Thanksgiving Meal**, following service
- November 24 **Reedsville Community Thanksgiving Service**, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reedsville, at 7 pm
- November 24 Checks for **Wreaths Across America**, (\$17 per wreath) due to Nancy S.
- December 1 **Advent Begins**
- December 14 **Wreaths Across America**, Church Hill Cemetery, noon
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Services**
 - 7 pm East Kish
 - 9 pm West Kish

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wreaths Across America will be laying wreaths at Church Hill Cemetery this year. The ceremony will be Saturday, December 14, at noon. If you would like to purchase a wreath for a particular individual, the cost is \$17. Please give Nancy S. a check made out to “Wreaths Across America” by November 24. They will place it or you can place the wreath.

December is “Breakfast Foods Month” for the Blessing Box. When you're shopping, please look for cereal, instant oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter, or canned fruit. (Of course, we continue to appreciate any other donations as well.)

If you are participating in the **Mifflin County Children and Youth Christmas Program** THANK YOU in advance. Thanksgiving has not yet occurred but I am trying to get things organized for this busy season. Those of you who requested a child’s name have received that information and their tags. This year the gifts should be WRAPPED and labeled. Those of you who choose to participate through monetary donations should make the check out to EKPC (indicating it is for the Children and Youth Christmas Program) and we will issue them one check. Your monetary donations can be put in the weekly offering plate. All money and gifts need to be at the Church by Sunday December 8th. **Please contact Cassie Campbell if you have any questions. (717) 247-5478.**

Quiet Christmas, a concert of soft sounds of the season presented by local musicians Rich Burns, Rex Goss, Josh Hill, Jeff Kauffman, Paty Loudenslager, Ethan McMonigal, Jan Piper, Chris Prough, and Kevin Zook. Sunday, December 15, 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 200 East 3rd Street, Lewistown. Donations benefit the Theil and Andrea Kauffman Memorial Bible Fund.

The November 17 Collection totaled \$990. Thank you for giving.

Community Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM Sunday November 24, 2024

at

Reedsville Evangelical Lutheran Church

Featuring their Bell Choir

Guest speaker: Jeffrey Bell,

Director of Habitat for Humanity in Mifflin County

Just recently Habitat for Humanity celebrated its 25th anniversary here in Mifflin County by breaking ground on a 12th house. Habitat provides personnel and counseling to assist in life skills in economics, budgeting, and fiscal management.

All donations will benefit Mifflin County Habitat for Humanity.

The annual Service of Thanksgiving at **100 Logan Avenue corner of Logan and Pearl** is an ecumenical service for the whole community sponsored by area Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.



CREDITS:

Centering Thought quote: from Forward of *Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboy: A Native Expression of the Jesus Way* by Richard Twiss.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession *Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, 1992, Marilyn Hofstra, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN*

Lord's Prayer: *This version was written by Hattie Corbett Enos, Nez Perce, great grandmother of Rev. Irvin Porter. Gifts of Many Cultures, 1995, Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, United Church Press*

New Testament Readings, Matthew and Revelations - *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament by Terry M. Wildman*

Other liturgy resources: *Presbyterian Outlook*

Liturgy compiled by Rev. Ela J. Robertson

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

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Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musician: Bill Peightel

Lector: Paul Raber

Ushers: Tina Harpster and Brenda Peightel