



TENDING TO OUR ROAD OF FAITH

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
November 16, 2014

Leesburg Presbyterian Church

*Standing on the past...
Reaching for the future*

Leesburg, Virginia

1804

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

Order of Worship for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Commitment Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

When the church bell is rung, let us be silent for worship.

**Please stand if able*

PRELUDE

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ

J. S. Bach

THE GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are sitting at the end of a pew, please start the friendship register by signing it and passing it to your neighbor.

Wherever you may be in the journey of faith, Leesburg Presbyterian Church welcomes you. We are a community where persons from different faith backgrounds and understandings find unity in the wide embrace of Christ's love and call to service. If you are passing through, we extend God's blessing to you as you continue on your way. If you are seeking a home, we invite you to join us in the adventure of serving Jesus Christ in a challenging world.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have been blessed by the Eternal God, who has been faithful to us.

As thankful stewards, we will remain faithful to God.

We have been called by Christ, Son of God and Son of Man.

As redeemed stewards, we will remain faithful to Christ.

God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and Guide.

As Spirit-filled stewards, we will remain faithful to the work of the Risen Lord in our world.

***HYMN # 555**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive our fear that comes from a lack of trust in your providential care for us. Forgive when we are so focused on our own interests, that we choose to ignore your calling to think on a grander scale and live with a grander vision. You know our needs. You know what it takes for the tasks you have called us to. Help us to be satisfied when our needs are met and to be joyful when we can share with others. (time for silent, personal confession) Amen.

BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS

***RESPONSE # 581**

"Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *We Shall Walk Through the Valley* arr. U. S. Moore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:14-30 Pew Bible, pp. 28-29

SERMON Rev. Deborah Dodson Parsons

HYMN # 716 *"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* BEACH SPRING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

You are invited to come forward with your offering and your pledge card to place in the basket on the Table. We will begin in the balcony and then proceed from back to front in the lower level of the sanctuary. Or you may place your offering or pledge in a basket on the credenza in the foyer.

OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts* arr. James Pethel

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Eternal God, we bow before you today in gratitude for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to remember your generosity, and to thank you for every good gift that we enjoy and for your faithfulness in times of adversity. Just as you are always faithful to us, help us to remember to be faithful to you.

As we make decisions about how to use the many gifts we have received from you, guide us by your Holy Spirit to be good stewards so that we will make the best use of those gifts for the sake of your kingdom. In the strong and holy name of Jesus, Our Friend and Savior. Amen

***HYMN # 391** *"Take My Life"* HENDON

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Pasticcio* Jean Langlais

TODAY'S SERVICE MUSIC

Prelude -- **Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ**

This short trio (1717) is found in J. S. Bach's keyboard collection titled *The Little Organ Book*, which was used for instruction in how to compose various treatments of hymn melodies. The pedal line consists of constant eighth notes, and the middle voice is an unbroken string of sixteenth notes; the florid melody is ornamented in typical Baroque fashion. Text: *I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, to hear my lamentation. Bestow thy grace upon me so that I do not despair, and give me the right faith to live for Thee, to be useful to my neighbor, and to keep thy word properly.*

Anthem – **We Shall Walk Through the Valley**

The origins of this song are disputed. It is often listed as a spiritual, but many sources name A. T. Hatter as the composer of both melody and words. Spirituals arose from slaves who sang while performing field work, and most of them had texts with religious themes. Whatever its source, this serene tune is set to a text that paraphrases Psalm 23. In 1977, African-American composer Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) crafted this choral arrangement that has been performed and recorded countless times. Ms. Moore was the first graduate of Nashville's Fisk University to be awarded a scholarship to Juilliard (NYC).

Offertory -- **Simple Gifts**

The Shaker tune *Simple Gifts* was composed by Joseph Brackett, Jr. (1797-1882) while he was living in the Shaker village of Alfred, Maine during the summer of 1848. Its popularity transcended religious use; *Simple Gifts* was sung by Jessye Norman at Ronald Reagan's 1985 inauguration and by Marilyn Horne at Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Aaron Copeland also used the melody in a movement of his Appalachian Spring ballet (1944), which premiered at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. James Pethel was born in 1936 in Gainesville, GA, although he has spent most of his life in Jefferson City, TN, as composer-in-residence and professor of music at Carson-Newman College. He has served several churches as organist, and the majority of his works have been written for organ solo.

Postlude -- **Pasticcio**

Blind French organist, composer and teacher Jean Langlais (1907-1991) was titular organist at Sainte-Clotilde in Paris for 43 years, Langlais followed in the footsteps of César Franck and Charles Tournemire. All three of their names are carved in stone to the left of the west entrance doors of the basilica. *Pasticcio* (1956) is a brisk march that imitates an Italian musical form known as a canzona. The piece was written as a wedding gift for Jacqueline Marchal and Guiseppe Englert; Jacqueline was the daughter of André Marchal, one of Langlais's first teachers.

Children in Worship

Because the safety of our young children matters deeply to all of us, we encourage families with little ones to choose a seat other than the front row of the balcony.

NURSERY CARE is provided from 8:15am to 12:15pm for infants through 3 year olds. Miss Pat and Miss Angie are our professional caregivers. Children can be dropped off in the Nursery, located at the east end of the first floor of the Education Wing. We ask that only parents drop off their children.

GODLY PLAY is offered from 11:20am to 12:00pm, for children age 4 to 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to Godly Play immediately after the *Time with the Children*. Godly Play provides age appropriate worship for children, which helps them deepen their understanding of God through storytelling, hands-on activities, and prayer. Our acolytes will escort children to Godly Play.

At the 8:30am and 11:00 am services, we ask children who are in 4th grade and above to remain in the sanctuary to participate in worship.

Children in Church School

Church School is offered between our two services of worship from 9:45am to 10:45am for children age 3 to 5th grade. Church School takes place in the Education Wing, and is led by members and parents, who serve our children and their families in this vital ministry. We have three classes: Preschool meets downstairs in Rm. 4, Kindergarten-2nd grade meet upstairs in Rm. 3, and 3rd-5th grade meet upstairs in Rm. 2.

Youth Group is held every Sunday evening, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall, from 5:30 to 7:15pm. Our Youth Group is for 7th-12th graders. Each night we have games, food, a short study or devotion, and end with a game of choice. If you would like a calendar of Youth Group events, please contact Pastor James: revjames@lpcva.org. Laura Herring, Wes Rhodes, and Pastor James are the adult leadership, and our meals are provided by Youth Group parents.

To Our Visitors Whether you have visited with us before or are visiting today for the first time, we hope you experience the open-hearted hospitality of the Living Christ in our community of faith as we gather in his name for Sabbath worship. Because it is our desire to get to know you better and to be able to communicate with you about our life and ministry, we appreciate you filling out the attendance register. One becomes a member of a Presbyterian church in one of three ways: 1) Profession of Faith, 2) Re-affirmation of Faith, 3) by Letter of Transfer from a previous church.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

ASSISTING:	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Liturgists:	Sally Nathan	Keith Markel
Ushers:	Kathy & Brad Brown	Bud & Joan Elliott
Acolytes:		Bailey Vigil & Megan Helge
Flowers:	Given in loving memory of Mary Hunter Leach.	

Sunday, November 16, 2014

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday—Worship at 8:30am & 11:00 am

Adult Education 9:45 am

Youth Group 5:30 pm

Monday, November 17—Monday Morning Stitchers—11:00 am

Wednesday, November 19 — Session 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 20 - Choir 7:30 pm

We express our love and sympathy to Susan and Matt Howard and their three children upon the death of Susan's beloved father, John Wright Woodruff. His service was Friday, November 14th at Newton Presbyterian Church.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LED BY OUR PASTORS
Making Sense of the Bible with short video presentations by
Adam Hamilton
A Six-Week Series

Making Sense about the Nature of Scripture – November 16

The Bible and Science- November 23

Violence, Suffering, and Other Troubling Issues – November 30

Wrestling with Issues of Sexuality and Relationships – December 7

We need USHERS! Our immediate need is for one more usher for the **second** Sunday of each month at the 8:30am service and two to serve at the 11:00am service. If you would like to join this important ministry, please talk to Pastor Debbie or contact the church office at 703-777-4163.

Christmas Cantata: To Us a Child Is Born

The centerpiece of our December 14 morning worship services will be the Bach/Kuhnau cantata "*Uns is ein Kind geboren*" presented by our choristers, vocal soloists and a chamber orchestra. Please note the altered service times of 9:30 and 11:15 for worship through music of the Christmas season: congregational carols, choral anthems and instrumental music.

LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

207 West Market Street, Leesburg VA 20176

Phone: 703-777-4163

www.LeesburgPresbyterian.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 9-3; Friday: 9-2

The Back Pew - The deadline for the December issue of The Back Pew is **Friday, November 21**. Please send your submissions to the church—office@lpcva.org.

ELDERS

2015

Trish Fraker
Frank Gasperini
Keith Markel

2016

Todd Joyce
Linda Rawlett
Wynne Rodgers
Cameron Spivey

2017

Wayne Helge
Kim Hovda
Jim Ruddell
Sheryl Tompkins

DEACONS

Kristin Moats
Florence O'Hey
Sharon Schmidt
Dennis Welsh

Rebecca Caprio
Joan Elliott
Sofia Spivey
Krista Ritsema

Christian Hoff
William Marsh
Susan Sutter
Stuart Weikel

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Administrator
Prayer Chain
Business Manager
Music Director
Nursery

Deborah Parsons
James Cubie
Denise Sheehan
Peggy Moats
Julie Koochagian
Terry Sisk
Patricia Medina & Angie Wynder

revdeb@lpcva.org
revjames@lpcva.org
office@lpcva.org
prayer@lpcva.org
bookkeeper@lpcva.org
music@lpcva.org



The Holiday Coalition Christmas Giving Tree

is set up in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Choose one or more ornaments.

A guide for what to give the person on your ornament will be posted on the wall next to the tree and several lists will be in the window sill next to the tree. Feel free to take one. All gifts must be under the tree by **Sunday, November 30th.** *Please do not wrap the gifts.*

Gift Suggestions—New Items Only

Clothing: Complete outfits for infants through teens.

Toys: New Toys of all kinds and books for infants through teens.

Teens: New electronic games, jewelry, purses, toiletry items.

Adults & Seniors: Blankets and quilts, warm sweaters and cardigans (especially XL and up), hats and gloves, underwear (larger sizes) and socks.

Gift Certificates: Varied certificates for teenage gifts, as well as grocery store gift cards. Certificates in small amounts such as \$10 and \$20.