

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Year BFebruary 7, 2021

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34)

*SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 1, 10-20

* OPENING HYMN: #569..... We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Much of our frustration in life is due to a fear that our Lord will call us at a time when we are not ready.

People: May we set aside the superficial joy we seek, to when it is so easy to put off righteousness to a later date.

Leader: If we really want happiness, we will find it only when we have prepared ourselves for Christ.

People: May we set aside the superficial joy we seek, to experience real happiness in being ready for our Lord.

* Let us pray (Congregation):

Almighty God, you have called us into discipleship which is unconditioned by knowledge of when Christ shall come. Grant us faithfulness to that call that we may be found ready at any time. We pray through Christ, our Savior, for whom we are preparing ourselves. Amen.

* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

580.....Lead On, O King Eternal

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LeRoy UMC, 10 Trigon Park, LeRoy, NY 14482

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)

God of mercy, we tend to dismiss from our thinking the seriousness of being ready when you call us. We speak lightly about entering eternity "when our number is up," without any sense of responsibility on our part. Forgive us for our foolish living that keeps us unprepared, unhappy, and unholy. Help us to turn our lives over to you that there may be no question about our readiness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #572 Pass It On

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the word of the Lord and listen to God's teaching.
For God's word contains warning and promise—a gift to be treasured and loved.
Whether we receive this gift is a choice we make.

*SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 12:32-40

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: “Happiness is being found ready”

* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #576 Rise Up, O Men of God

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

* CLOSING HYMN: # 575..... Onward, Christian Soldiers (vs 1)

* DISMISSAL BLESSING

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 (NKJV)

¹ The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: ¹¹ “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the Lord. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.

¹² “When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? ¹³ Bring no more futile[a] sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. ¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵ When you [b]spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of [c]blood.

¹⁶ “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke [d]the oppressor; [e]defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword”; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 12:32-40 (NKJV)

³² “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. ³⁸ And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would [a] have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”



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LeRoy United Methodist Church

A Community Church: Moving Forward

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