

First Sunday of Lent
Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
Theme: Bridging to the Future

Sunday, February 22, 2026



“When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient.
When you pray, be faithful.” Romans 12:12

GATHERING

Prelude: “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation and fatigue—a place of hunger, thirst, and temptation.

People: We follow the Jesus story in amazement at his resilience and his trust in God’s provision.

Leader: We witness Jesus resisting the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

People: As was true for Him, we recognize God’s mercy at work in the face of our own temptations.

Leader: We notice the angels who tend to Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

People: We pay attention to God’s unwavering presence that sustained Jesus and does the same for us now.

Leader: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

People: We gather to worship a God whose unfailing presence journeys with us into the wildernesses of our own lives. Thanks be to God! AMEN

*Hymn: #166 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

Gracious and merciful God, we confess our frequent reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for You, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and

doing Your will: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

We admit those times we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others; when we are tempted to resort to power and control rather than empathy and genuine concern. Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of Your salvation. So strengthen us with Your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in You as confidently as Jesus did.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. AMEN

The Gloria Patri – #581 “Glory Be to the Father”

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: “Choosing Options—Renewed in Mercy”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Communion

*Hymn: #507 “Come to the Table of Grace”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use our gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places. In Christ's name we pray, AMEN

Announcements

Prayers of the People including The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn: #43 "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord"
(On Eagle's Wings - Psalm 91)

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy.

People: We go trusting that through ups and downs, wherever our path leads, God's steadfast love surrounds us, sustains us, and supports us all the way.

AMEN

Silent Prayer (*be seated*)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. AMEN

Postlude: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Gordon Young

(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



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