

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY
Theme: Lessons in Leadership – Power

Sunday, October 4, 2026



“For though the LORD is high, the LORD regards the lowly, but the haughty GOD perceives from far away.” Psalm 138:6

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 124:8

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

People: God’s word challenges us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

Leader: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

People: God shows us through the midwives’ daring, Peter’s truth-telling, and Jesus’ humility.

Leader: In a world where power is held over people’s heads, how does God exercise power?

People: God exercises power by journeying with the oppressed, the outcasts, the poor and downtrodden.

Leader: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will we use your power today?

People: We will support our ministries that uphold the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and seek to love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. AMEN

*Hymn #10 “Sing Glory to the Name of God”

*Prayer of the Day

O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe, you set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect us. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us through our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them.

Above the unstable currents of our own self-will and of elected leaders and others in positions of influence and power, embolden each of us and those who stand on the rock of your purposes. Be the secret stay and the inner guide for how to use the power entrusted to each of us. Bless our work through committees and organizations, through nonprofits and places of business. May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. AMEN

*Gloria Patri

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon: **“The Power of Leadership”**

Communion Hymn: #498 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are

because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive our gifts whenever we give them as signs of our trust in the ways of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the church as a welcoming place, and therefore claim the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. AMEN (Exodus 1:8-2:10, Matthew 16:13-20)

Announcements and Concerns of the People

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: Beloved, God calls us to use our power wisely in the service of those the world has disempowered.

People: May God bless us with the courage to notice injustices in the world and the perseverance to discover ways to set things right.

Leader: We will keep showing up with God and one another to be empowered to set the world aright. AMEN

Postlude

(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Dianne Yuninger, Organist

Prayers of the Congregation

The Prayer Person this week is: **Lori A. Smith**

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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