

First Sunday in Lent Sunday, February 18, 2024
Theme: Depths of Love: God Draws Near



GATHERING

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

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship

Leader: Lenten travelers, when we feel the security of God’s love, affirmation of God’s call, and covered in God’s grace...God comes near.

People: When we feel deserted and alone, starving and parched for a caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as the ground under us like shifting sand...God comes near.

Leader: When we feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to live as bearers of the good news that the Kingdom of God is here...God comes near.

People: In all seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not forsake us.

Leader: We gather to come near to God whose ever-present love remains near no matter where our journey takes us. AMEN

*Hymn: #436 “God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

*Prayer of the Day

Lord and Shepherd of our journeys in the desert, we come to you during this Lenten season as servants of Jesus Christ. We remember how you liberated Moses and the Israelites; we remember also how you liberated the prophet Elijah in his journey to escape from a corrupt king.

Now, in our Lenten journey, we implore your direction, your patience, and your spiritual support. As you sent your angels to care for the Israelites, to

the prophet Elijah in his journey, and to Jesus during his forty days in the desert, send them also to us in our earthly journeys. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon - Psalm 2:1-10

Leader: To you, O LORD, we lift up our soul. O God, in you we trust; do not let those who wait for you be put to shame.

People: Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, for you are the God of our salvation.

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

People: Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Leader: Good and upright is the LORD; God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches us in humble ways.

People: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God’s covenant and decrees.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” Robert Lau

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: “A Test of Loyalty”

*Hymn: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” (insert)

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings understanding that on our journey in Lent we cannot detour around the wilderness. We hear anew Jesus' call to affirm our commitment to the unfinished work of your kingdom. Bless our gifts as a sign we have chosen wisely. Accept our understanding of the enormous gift Jesus gave—that the redemption of our lives came with a price. Lead us to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #724 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*Charge and Benediction

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

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

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: Ehren & Lauren Graybill

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Celebration of Ruth Anne Appel's 90th Birthday
Given by Esta Fisher**

Announcements

Our **Lenten Study** begins next Sunday, February 25 and continues thru March 17. Before the study, we will have a light meal of soup and bread. If you are able to supply soup, please sign up in the Narthex.

The Session calls for the **Annual Meeting** of the congregation today following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive our annual reports, elect two at-large members of the 2024 Nominating Committee, and conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

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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