

Third Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2017

GATHERING

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: "Song of St. Patrick: May the Spirit of Christ" Haugen/Linker

Invocation

**Call To Worship*

Leader: If you are thirsty, you are in the right place.

People: Here in this house of prayer is opportunity of the first kind. an opening into personal refreshment from the depths of that most profound Well-Spring that we call God.

Leader: The God of Christ Jesus can quench the thirst of any who come here today in quiet expectation and open-hearted trust.

People: Therefore, blessed are those who thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**Hymn: #175 "Seek Ye First"*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord Jesus, when our prayers seem like a stony desert and our hearts feel as dry as a sand hill, drench me with a downpour of mercy.

Whenever we take good gifts for granted, and grumble about small obstacles, please put a new song on our tongue, until we praise as naturally as song sparrows.

**When we are frayed by life's abrasive pressures,
When we lose our hold on God,
Remind us that God never loses hold of us.**

**When our miserly souls begrudge compassion, hiding smugly in the folds of apathy, put in our hands a crown of thorns and show us again what Love can make with two pieces of wood and a few nails.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

God of the crucified Jesus, and our God, your love is greater than all our clumsiness and wrongdoing. We thank you that your forgiveness cleanses us,

your mercy heals us, and your bountiful grace restores us to a place in your one family that spans both earth and heaven.

**Response: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; In the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God: do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. (p.654)*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Children's Sermon

(Following this, children may leave for Sunday School)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**Hymn: #803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"*

Scripture Reading: John 4:5-42 (p.89)

Sermon: Surprised by God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith – excerpted from A Brief Statement of Faith
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed

and blessing the children,

healing the sick

and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal.

**With believers in every time and place,
We rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ

Our Savior Christ, came with peace. "Peace for those who were near, and peace for those who were far off." The peace and wonder and joy of Christ Jesus be always with you.

And also with you!

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" Emma Lou Diemer

*Doxology (page 606)

* *Hymn:* #543 "God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

*Benediction:

Choral Response: "Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you." (p.748)

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude "Go to Dark Gethsemane" Robert Lau

The End of Worship

The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

As you leave worship, greet all with the Peace of Christ

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

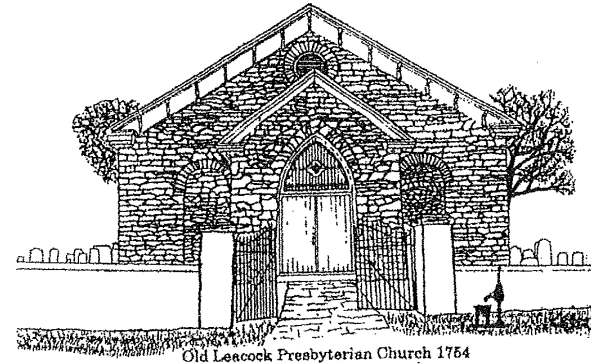
The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Lewis Bryson;
Husband, Father and Grandfather on your birthday.

We miss you, and we thank God for all our wonderful memories.

Given by your wife Ruth and your family

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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VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! During the offertory, the Friendship Book will be passed from the end of the pew. Please sign it and indicate other information as appropriate. Pass the book back down the pew and notice the names of the other worshippers. Greet one another warmly after the service.

WORSHIP HOUR INFORMATION: It is an ancient Scottish custom for the pulpit Bible to be brought into the sanctuary and placed by a layperson before the service begins.

IN THE NURSERY (babies through 4 yrs.)

This Sunday – Michele & Sarah Lichty

Next Sunday, March 26 – Mary Alice High & Johanna Gingher

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & HELPER

This Sunday - Craig Keenan & Alyssa or Sarah Keenan

Next Sunday, March 26-Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER PERSON THIS WEEK: **Alba Buck**

TODAY 9:30 a.m. Service of Worship

10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School

MONDAY 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministries

7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting

WEDNESDAY 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome **Rev. Patty Rowe Stoltzfus** to the pulpit this morning. She grew up in our area and graduated from Pequea Valley High School. Active in Donegal Presbytery, she is currently a pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Malvern and served as Presbytery Moderator for the past two years.

Our Lenten Study resumes next Sunday evening, March 26, and continues through April 9 at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall. We gather for a light meal of soup and bread followed by a study and discussion of What Do We Believe? - Exploring our Faith by exploring the Creed, led by Pastor Bob Birch.

Soup needed for Lenten Study

If you would be willing to provide soup (homemade or purchased) or bread for any of the Lenten Study meals, please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex.

The next free **Community Meal** will be held on Thursday, March 30th from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex for your convenience. Everyone is welcome to help or just to attend and enjoy a free meal with lots of wonderful fellowship.

Please remember that the Sundays during Lent are the time for our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. There are envelopes in the pews that you may use for this or you may also use a plain white envelope and simply mark it for One Great Hour of Sharing.

It's time to order your **Easter Plants!** Order forms are located in the narthex.

3/19//2017