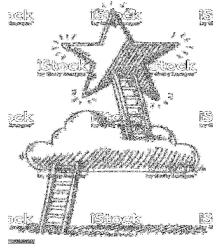


First Sunday of Lent  
Theme: "Visioning the Future"

Sunday, February 26, 2023



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

*GATHERING*

*Prelude:* "Amazing Grace -- My Chains Are Gone" arr. Anna Laura Page

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

**CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 32 (The Message)**

Leader: Count yourself lucky when you get a fresh start, when your slate is wiped clean.

**People: We count ourselves lucky when we hold nothing back from God, and when God holds nothing against us.**

Leader: When we keep it all inside, our bones turn to powder, our words become daylong groans.

**People: When we let it all out, suddenly the pressure is gone—our guilt is dissolved, our sin is removed from us.**

Leader: These things add up, so every one of us needs to pray.

**People: God becomes our island hideaway, keeping danger far from the shore.**

Leader: Indeed, only God can keep us on high ground, untouched.

**People: Celebrate God. Sing together—everyone! May all our honest hearts, raise the roof!**

\*Hymn: #385 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" (see download)

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:** *(We begin with a time of Silent Confession. . .now together as the People of God, we pray:)*

**God of all seasons, we enter the Lenten Season with humility and anticipation. As the good earth warms, so may our hearts. Wake us up to those needs we are too prideful to name or confess. At times it is so easy to miss what**

**is essential and most sustaining. Even when naming needs within and around us, we might not see as we are called to see. Give us in this season fresh vision and renewed understanding. Whether we are working on solutions or uncertain where to begin, whether for our church, within our families or our community, guide us in the way we should go, through Christ we pray,**

*(The Lord's Prayer as follows):*

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN**

DECLARATION OF PARDON *(sung "Hear the Good News of Salvation")*  
(vs. 2 only)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Through Christ our Lord we pray.

**People: AMEN**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*(Offer the "wave of peace" to those around you or greet those you comfortably can)*

*PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD*

*Anthem:* "Give Me Jesus" arr. Robert Lau  
Chancel Choir

Scripture: Romans 5:17-19 (The Message) and Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Sermon: "If"

Hymn: #403 "Open Now the Gates of Beauty" (see download)

## *RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

### OFFERING PRAYER

**As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace the challenges of our day with deep faith and trust in the one who journeys with us. In this spirit we offer our gifts. AMEN**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: #458 "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet" (see download)

\*Benediction

Postlude "My Savior's Love" Albin Whitworth

The End of Worship  
The Beginning of Service

\*Those who are able, please stand

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

### Prayers of the Congregation

**Prayer Person this week: Dorothy Wegst**

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Celebration of my parents,  
David & Carol Berkhimer's 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Given by Danielle, Jayde & Kyle**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

For those unable to come this past Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes will be offered following worship around the communion table in the front.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering starts today, Sunday, February 26

## *Leacock Presbyterian Church*

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



3181 Lincoln Highway East  
Paradise, PA 17562  
Telephone: 687-6619  
[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)