

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Including a Minute for Mission**

**Sunday, July 23, 2023**

**Theme: The Stewardship of Grace**



**“For God’s strength is the source of righteousness, and  
God’s sovereignty over all causes God to spare all.”  
Wisdom of Solomon 12:16**

## *GATHERING*

*Prelude:* “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” Gerald Peterson

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

### **\*Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

**People: Before we move or think or speak, you know our actions and our words.**

Leader: You breathed life into us, and shaped us in human form to serve your purpose and sing your praise.

**People: We praise you for the gifts of substance and spirit, of acceptance and expectancy, of lineage and legacy.**

Leader: How wonderful are your thoughts, O God!

**People: How vast is the expanse of your grace and love. Your presence never leaves us; your love never ceases!**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: The Lord’s name be praised!**

\*Hymn: #169 “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” (see download)

\*Prayer of the Day and Intercession

**God of Sun and Moon, Star and Sky, your wonder is beyond our imagining. We thank you for the gift of this world we share, and for the common bonds that we share as your children. Bless us as we worship today. Bless us as we seek to find ways toward the peace you invite us to share. Guide us as we walk the delicate line between things of the spirit and things of the**

**flesh, being faithful to our relationship with you. Keep us mindful of those whose path is vastly different from our own. May the Mystery of your ways be the bridge that draws all people together in your vision of humanity. Bring your radical, scandalous grace into our midst, and touch us all with your peace, for we ask it in the name of the One who calls us ever forward, Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, “Our Father...” (using debts/our debtors)**

Assurance of God’s Love

Leader: Be assured that God leads us along, seeking to reclaim us and our world.

Sung Response: #436 “God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us” (*verse 1 only*)

**“God of compassion, in mercy befriend us, giver of grace for our needs all availing. Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us, patience untiring and courage unailing.”**

## *PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD*

Old Testament: Gen. 28:10-19a - Jacob’s Dream of the Ladder to Heaven (*not read*)

Epistle: Romans 8:12-25 (*not read*)

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (*Parable of the Wheat and Tares*) - (*not read*)

Alternate Hebrew Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Sermon: “An Extravagant Grace”

Hymn: “Marvelous Grace (Grace, Greater Than Our Sin)” (insert and see download)

## *RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD*

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of All, with thankful hearts for the bounties of our lives, we offer our gratitude and praise. There is nothing we can do alone. Keep us mindful of our rich heritage and all the ways others have shared their resources with us. Along with theirs, may our witness remain resilient and strong, through Christ who gave all, we pray. AMEN**

Minute for Mission

The Pastor

Sharing Joys and Concerns

All Worshipers

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory" (see download)

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Elevation"

J.L. Battmann

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: **Emily Birch**

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Dale Rice  
Given by Mary Ellen**

### Announcements

PNC will meet Monday at 6:30 p.m.

8:45 p.m. Monday **Leacock's Soft Ball Team** plays Ridgeview on Field One.

Our next **Community Meal** is this **Thursday July 27** at 5:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. The meal will be subs, chips, baked beans, pickles, applesauce, and desserts. The sign-up sheets for food donations and for helpers to prepare, serve, and clean up the meal are in the narthex. Everyone is welcome.

### **Flowers for the Church**

If you wish to purchase flowers for the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, Sunday, **July 30** is available.

The Strasburg First Presbyterian Church Museum Trip flyer is available in the Narthex.

## *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)**