



Shining the light of the gospel into the heart of Lewistown since 1785

March 4, 2018

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sermon: Wisdom/Foolishness

Guest Preacher: Phil Loewen

"If you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:1-5

17 EAST THIRD STREET

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Pastors: James Thomas and Robert Zorn

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Shining the light of the gospel into the
heart of Lewistown since 1785

March 4, 2018

10:30 AM

Prelude	Ritournello on "Liebster Jesu" Wondrous Love	Miller Barber
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Welcome and Announcements

Introit	Lead Me, Lord	Wesley
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Call to Worship	Psalm 84
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Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!

People: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Leader: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

People: Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

Leader: As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

People: They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Leader: Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.

People: Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Leader: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

People: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Leader: LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

* **Hymn #420** (blue)

God of Grace and God of Glory

Children's Sermon

Unison Prayer of Confession

Memorial Drive (adapted)

Gracious God, we are blessed when we confess our sins. In Jesus Christ you have removed our guilt. Free us now from the trappings of our sin. Give us hearts that yearn for you, instead of hearts that are filled with rebellion. Remind us that dwelling with you, and your purpose for our lives, is far better than any temptation we face. Thank you for Your merciful grace and unfailing compassion. May we extend that same grace to others. In Jesus' Name we pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

1 John 1:5-9

Leader: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

People: If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

Leader: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

People: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Leader: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Anthem

Suite for Carillon II

Barber

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

* Doxology #592 (blue)

* Prayer of Dedication

* Song

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life—
I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stewart Townsend © 1995 by Thankyou ~ CCLI #18811909

*** Song**

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

1. Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a lamb could
Rescue the souls of men;
O, you rescue the souls of men.
2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost our way;
O, we've hopelessly lost our way.

Chorus:

*You are the One that we praise.
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for,
O, our hearts always hunger for.*

3. Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving your own.
Here in our weakness you find us
Falling before your throne;
O, we're falling before your throne.

D Rodgers & E Wyse, © 1989 by Dayspring Music ~CCLI #1881909

Scripture Reading

John 2:13-22
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon

Wisdom/Foolishness

* **Hymn #101** (blue) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

- Invitation to the Table
- Pastoral Prayer and Communion Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Distribution of the Bread
- Distribution of the Cup

Lord’s Prayer

Traditional

**Our Father who 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 and the power and the
 glory, forever. Amen.**

* **Benediction**

* **Closing Chorus**

Lift High the Cross

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
 Til all the world adore His sacred name.*

Postlude

If God Himself Be for Me

Wood

**If comfortably able please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit & Anthem: Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, Director

Liturgist: Brad Siddons

Next Week: Doug Garner

Acolyte: Leland Mitchell

Children's Sermon: Maryann Haines

Next Week: Lynn Curry

Children's Church: Gerri Aitkin

Next week: Lynn Curry

Ushers: Lonnie Griffith (lead usher), Ryan & Laurie Fultz,
Marilyn Miller, Ed & Lynn Curry

Preaching: Phil Loewen

Next Week: Pastor James Thomas

Infants/Preschool: Rachel Cunningham and Riley Cullen

Next week: Pam Pecht and Vicky Pecht

Deacon for the Month: Lynn Curry

Counters: Ed Curry and Lonnie Griffith

Next Week: Kari Cullen and Maryann Haines

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Bag in the narthex. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers. Childcare through age four is available throughout the service. Children's church is available for children age 5 – grade 4 following the children's sermon.

LENTEN KIDZ KLUB: It's never too late to join the journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover! Come on up to the third floor at 4 and jump into the fun learning! Watch out for frogs, gnats, and hail on your way! And Clive....that not so little chameleon seems to have disappeared! Pick up time at 6 after our 5:30 supper in the Baraca room.

ATTENTION MUSICIANS! We are forming an instrumental Palm Sunday special music group. If you play an instrument and would be willing to join us, please let Cole Cullen or Art Belfiore know ASAP so that music will be ready for you. We will practice on March 11 and 18 after church and we will play on Palm Sunday, March 25 during the service. Hope to see you!!!

GIFTS OF LOVE: The mission committee is organizing the collection of Hygiene Kits and School Kits to be distributed through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Information about what to provide and how to package the items is available in the narthex. Volunteers from the Huntingdon Presbytery will deliver the kits to the distribution center.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 31**, (the day before Easter Sunday) and then invite a friend to join you on a thought provoking and meaningful Easter journey. Kids and their families and friends will travel through five stations uniquely designed to encourage thinking and get families talking about the final events of Jesus' life here on earth. They will experience the excitement surrounding Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, the significance of the Last Supper, the darkness at Gethsemane, the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and the joy of His resurrection. Hands on learning with take home activities to continue your journey with Jesus at home. Walk with Jesus begins at 8:45 am and will conclude at 11:45. **Please Note:** Walk with Jesus will incorporate our traditional Easter Egg hunt so there will be no separate egg hunt this year.

LENTEN LUNCHEON SCHEDULE: The Lewistown Ministerium is sponsoring Lenten Luncheons on Wednesdays during Lent again this year. We begin at noon at the sponsoring church and end well before 1 PM. Each church will provide a meal and worship or a devotional thought. The schedule of host churches:

- **March 7:** Salvation Army
- **March 14:** Grace United Methodist
- **March 21:** Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

- **YELLOW EASTER ENVELOPES** will be used to support the work of the Mifflin/Juniata Abuse Network. The mission of the Abuse Network is to assist and educate victims and community members about violence and abusive behaviors to promote a more peaceful, violence-free community.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ENVELOPE:** Your gift enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

LENTEN STUDY: Our all-church Lenten study this year is Ruth Haley Barton's Sacred Rhythms. This study is based on the premise that we function best when we establish regular practices that connect us with the flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world around us. Sacred Rhythms will not only provide an opportunity to learn about spiritual disciplines, but also to practice them. As we learn and experience together, we will be able to discern with the Holy Spirit our individual path of growth with God. Available groups are:

- **Sundays at 9 AM** led by Pat Brown
- **Sundays at 11:40 AM** led by Susan Ferguson and Mary Bull
- **Sundays at 6:00 PM** led by Jim and Devon Thomas
- **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM** at Ruth and Ken Fisher's
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 AM** led by Pastor Thomas

Benefitting from Sacred Rhythms is very dependent upon the DVD curriculum which will be shared in our small groups. If you are unable to attend any of these groups, but would like to experience the curriculum, please contact the church office for a copy of the DVD to use in your family or in a group you would like to form.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

- **Adult Sunday Morning Study** led by Pat Brown meets in the church parlor on Sundays at 9 AM. They are studying Sacred Rhythms, our Lenten focus study.
- **Youth Sunday Morning Study:** All youth in grades 6-12 are currently attending the confirmation classes at the manse.
- **Sunday Afternoon Study** meets in the parlor after the Worship service for the Lenten focus, Sacred Rhythms. This study is led by Susan Ferguson and Mary Bull.
- **Tuesday Evening Group** will begin our Lenten Focus on Sacred Rhythms. The group is meeting at Ruth and Ken Fisher's home (20 White Rose Lane in Lewistown). The study begins at 6:30 PM, but all are welcome to join for dinner beforehand at 5:30 PM.
- **Wednesday Morning Group:** This group, which usually meets at the manse, will **meet in the church parlor this week** at 6:30 AM. They are participating in our Lenten study, Sacred Rhythms.
- **Sunday Evening Group** meets from 6:00 – 7:15 PM. **They will meet in the church parlor this evening.** This is another opportunity to participate with the Lenten study, Sacred Rhythms.

YOUTH GROUP will not be meeting this evening but will meet next week at the regular time of 6 PM.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-22

^{2:13} When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

March 4 – March 11, 2018

SUNDAY, March 4 Communion

- 9:00 AM Adult Lenten Study – Parlor
- 9:00 AM No Confirmation Class due to IMPACT
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:40 AM Adult Lenten Study - parlor
- 4:00 PM Lenten Kidz Klub
- 6:00 PM Adult Lenten Study – Parlor
- No Youth Group meeting tonight

MONDAY, March 5

- 11:30 AM Prayer Ministry
- 6:00 PM Joy Seekers
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, March 6

- 6:30 PM Adult Lenten Study – Fisher’s home

WEDNESDAY, March 7

- 6:30 AM Adult Lenten Study – church parlor
- 12 Noon Lenten Luncheon – Salvation Army
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, March 11

- 9:00 AM Adult Lenten Study – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class – manse
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Deacons’ Meeting
- 11:40 AM Adult Lenten Study – Parlor
- 4:00 PM Lenten Kidz Klub
- 6:00 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Adult Lenten Study – Church parlor

GIVING REPORT AS OF 2/25/18

Weekly Need:	\$ 3,265.14	Yearly Need:	\$ 26,121.12
Last Week:	\$ 3,034.00	YTD Received:	\$ 22,865.00