



**December 29, 2019**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Be Not Afraid: A Service of Scripture and  
Song for a New Year**

17 EAST THIRD STREET  
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044  
Telephone: (717) 248-4561  
lewispres@comcast.net  
lewistownpresbyterian.org  
Pastors: Sarah Sedgwick and Robert Zorn

# LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**December 29, 2019**

**10:30 AM**

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<b>Prelude</b>	Huron Carol Nocturne I Saw Three Ships	Ashdowne Wood
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## Welcome and Announcements

**Be not afraid - I bring you good news of great joy.**

*The birth of Christ is proclaimed to the shepherds with words  
of comfort and words of joy.*

## Call to Worship

Leader: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**All: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

**All: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"**

Leader: God is worthy of our praise!

**\*Hymn #29** (blue)

Go, Tell it on the Mountain!

**Do not be afraid, Abram.**

**I am your shield and your very great reward.**

*God's covenant promises always carry with them the reassurances of God's steadfast presence.*

**Scripture**

Genesis 15:1-6

**Do not be afraid - God has come to test you so that the fear of God will be with you and keep you from sinning.**

*God graciously gives us the law as a guide for living without fear.*

**Scripture Reading**

Exodus 20:1-21

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious Lord, we thank you for your gift of the law. For it is not something that has been given to us to scare us or to make us feel overwhelmed with guilt; it has been given to us as a gift—a gift to help us live as you want us to for our flourishing and for the growing of your kingdom. It's a gift to help us live without fear. Forgive us for the myriad of ways we reject this gift and choose our own ways over your ways. Forgive us for our fear of following after you with our whole hearts and our whole lives. Continue to remind us of your gracious gift to us and your promise to be always near. Amen.**

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Hymn #44** (blue)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Assurance of Pardon**

1 John 4:7-19

**Passing of the Peace**

Shalom is a Hebrew word meaning peace or God's wholeness in the world. When we offer God's shalom to one another we are agreeing to live together the way God expects and as a model to other people. We offer peace; not a mere greeting. May the Shalom of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us offer Shalom to one another.

**Do not be afraid for the Lord your God goes with you no matter what work God calls us to do,**

*God always equips us with words of grace.*

**Children's Chat**

**Scripture**

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

## Special Music

Mary, Did You Know?

**Do not fear for I have redeemed you**

*As we approach a new year, we hear again  
God's claim on our lives.*

**Scripture**

Isaiah 43:1-7, 14-21

**Hymn #339** (blue)

Be Thou My Vision

## Recognition & Thanksgiving for

### Reverend Robert Zorn's Faithful Service

Leader: Reverend Zorn was called by God through the voice of the church to give particular service as Minister of Visitation at Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

**All: We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ. We celebrate God's call to all who minister among us.**

## Words of Affirmation and Presentation of Gifts

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, look mercifully upon this church, and upon your servant Reverend Zorn, whose particular service we recognize today. **We praise you for joys and accomplishments and for your grace which has nurtured and sustained us through Reverend Zorn's service. Bind us ever closer to one another and draw us nearer to our Lord Jesus Christ.** Equip us that we may continue to minister in this community, with the same patience and love, wisdom and joy, Reverend Zorn has so graciously offered over the years. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

**Whom shall I fear?**

*The psalmist's words tell us the ways God's salvation brings us courage.*

**Scripture**

Psalm 27

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or your body, what you will wear**

*Jesus reminds us of our heavenly Father's care and provision for us so we need not worry.*

**Scripture**

Luke 12:22–34

**Hymn**

His Eye is on the Sparrow (printed in bulletin)

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory September Song

Weill

Doxology #592 (blue)

Prayer of Dedication

**Take courage, it is I! Do not be afraid**

*Jesus calls out to us in all the storms of life and graciously reaches out his hand to save us.*

**Scripture**

Matthew 14:22–33

**Hymn #379** (blue)

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

**Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here!**

*We need not fear the grave, for Jesus Christ was born to save.*

**Scripture**

Matthew 28:1–20

**Hymn #28** (blue)

Good Christians Friends, Rejoice!

**Do not be afraid—I am the First and the Last**

**Scripture**

Revelation 1:4–8, 17

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**On that day we will see our Savior face to face, sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious. He will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked. We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior, whose shed blood declares us righteous. We live confidently, anticipating his coming, offering him our daily lives, our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love, knowing that he will weave even our sins and sorrows into his sovereign purpose. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**\*Hymn #38** (blue)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**\*Benediction**

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid.”  
Alleluia! Amen!

**\*Congregational Response #576** (blue)

Gloria, Gloria

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Postlude**

Pat-a-Pan

Thygerson

*\*if comfortably able, please stand*

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Accompanist:** Joan Loewen

**Soloist:** Miranda Shoop

**Liturgist:** Nick Smith

**Next Week:** Bill Sisson

**Acolyte:** Abi Riden

**Children’s Chat:** Elaine Siddons

**Next Week:** Pastor Sarah

**Ushers:** Lonnie Griffith (head usher), Christopher Griffith,  
Harold & Gerri Aitkin, Larry & Janie Welshans

**Children’s Church:** Elaine Siddons

**Next Week:** Communion; no children’s church

**Infants/Preschool:** Leah Riden

**Next Week:** Kate Diven

**Deacon for the Month:** Janie Welshans

**Counters:** Bill Sisson & John Gregory

**Next Week:** Ed Curry & Lonnie Griffith

## His Eye Is on the Sparrow

*Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.... Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Mt. 10:29-31*

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come, Why should my heart be lone-ly,  
 2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I hear, And rest-ing on His good-ness,  
 3. When - ev - er I am tempt-ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing,

and long for heav'n and home, When Je - sus is my por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:  
 I lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He lead-eth, but one step I may see;  
 when hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos-er to Him, from care He sets me free;

1. When Je - sus is my portion? My con - stant Friend is He:

His eye is on the spar-row, and I know He watch-es me; His eye is on the spar-row,  
 He watch-es me;

*Refrain*

and I know He watch - es me. I sing be - cause I'm hap - py, I'm hap - py.

I sing be-cause I'm free, For His eye is on the spar-row, and I know He watch-es me.  
 I'm free,

WORDS: Civilla D. Martin, 1905. MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME!** If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Brochure. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

**JOIN US AT THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON TODAY** as we celebrate Rev. Zorn's retirement. The youth group and college-age students are providing a delicious Mexican meal and a cake in Pastor Zorn's honor will be served.

**A FAMILY EPIPHANY EVENT:** Come celebrate the arrival of the wise men to Bethlehem and the transforming presence of Jesus, **next Saturday, January 4 from 10 AM – noon.** Our time will include: The Magi story re-enacted and four stations featuring a star craft, creation of a home blessing box, experiencing the story through our senses, and a play dough activity will be provided. Before our time ends, we will enjoy star cookies, a King's cake, and camel food! There will also be a photo booth for fun pictures. All ages are welcome!

**ADVENT RESOURCES:** We hope you have enjoyed the selection of Advent resources on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return any borrowed items by next Sunday, January 5. Thanks!

**THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS** will take place on Sunday, January 12, 2019 during our worship service.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation and corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Reports for the **Annual Report are due by January 10.**

**2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex.

**GREEN CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES** have been designated for the Preschool Scholarship Fund.



## **WEEKLY REFLECTION PAGE**

*You are encouraged to use the resources on this page during your weekly devotions.*

### **Unwrapping More of His Love in the World**

#### **A New Year's Eve Litany**

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

A time to break down, and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time.

God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Whatever God does endures forever.

#### **A Moment for Reflection**

What hopes and expectations do you have for yourself in 2020?

Pray these hopes and reflections to God Almighty.

*O sing to the Lord a new song;*

*sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Sing to the Lord, bless his name;*

*tell of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations,*

*his marvelous works among all the peoples.*

Psalm 96:1-3

*Feel free to share some thoughts on the reflection question with Pastor Sarah by emailing her at [pastorsedgwick@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsedgwick@gmail.com)*



## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **SUNDAY, December 29**

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:30 AM Community Luncheon/Rev. Zorn reception

### **MONDAY, December 30**

11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

### **WEDNESDAY, January 1 New Year's Day**

Church office closed

### **SATURDAY, January 4**

10 AM – Noon Epiphany Party – all ages are welcome!

### **SUNDAY, January 5 Communion**

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service – Pick your STAR word!

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### **GIVING REPORT AS OF 12/22/19**

Weekly Need: \$ 3,173.08      YTD Need:      \$ 161,835.08

Received:      \$ 4,511.35      YTD Received: \$ 160,317.97