

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2023

Scripture Reading: Psalm 130

*A God wise enough to create me and the world I live in
is wise enough to watch out for me. —Philip Yancey*

There's an old story about a farmer, who, when asked to lead prayer in church, would end with a peculiar statement: "And, O Lord, prop us up on our leaning side."

His pastor asked him what he meant by that. He explained: "I've got an old barn, and it's been there a long time. It's been through a lot of storms, and the bugs have eaten at it. I got to looking at it one day, and I noticed it was leaning to one side. So, I thought to myself, this can't be good: it's only a matter of time before it falls.

"So, I got some pine beams, and I propped it up. It still leans, and probably always will. But it's not going to fall down because I supported it on its leaning side.

"I got to thinking about it," he went on. "I thought about the kind of year I've had, and some of the storms I've been through, and some of the people who are bugging me — eating away at my joy. And I got to thinking, I'm still here! I'm still standing after all I've been through. The howling winds: they couldn't topple me. It's because God's grace was propping me up on the leaning side."

Perhaps it was this same idea that prompted Anthony Showalter to pen the lyrics, together with Elisha Hoffman, of the old and well-known hymn, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Showalter said (according to an article in Wikipedia) that "he received letters from two of his former pupils saying that their wives had died. When writing letters of consolation, Showalter was inspired by the phrase in the book of Deuteronomy 33:27, 'The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'"

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Thank you, O God, for knowing the "joy divine" of being supported by your
"everlasting arms," supporting me on my "leaning side." Amen.*

*Blessings,
Lead Pastor Ben Matz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Deuteronomy 1-3
- Monday:** Deuteronomy 4-6
- Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 7-9
- Wednesday:** Deut. 10-12
- Thursday:** Deut. 13-16
- Friday:** Deuteronomy 17-19
- Saturday:** Deut. 20-22

Verse to Remember

“The LORD watches over the way of the righteous.”

—Psalm 1:6



BIBLE CRYPTO-FUN!

Clues: R=I, M=T

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L P Z Q N R V

M Y L H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U .

For solution, see Psalm 111:10 (NIV)

MUSIC MYSTERY

Directions: Fill in the blank boxes below by choosing the correct letter from the two clues provided to spell a famous composer’s name. Answer below.

4C 1E 3A 3C 2D 3E 1C 1E 5E

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1A 3D 4E 1B 5A 5A 4D 5E 3B

A B C D E

1	W	T	E	D	E
2	F	C	R	H	P
3	E	U	A	I	U
4	K	M	B	V	S
5	O	L	J	G	N

Answer: Beethoven