

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Buck Jolley

GATHERING

Prelude "The First Noel" (Rouse) David Thompson

Call to Worship Buck Jolley

One: The day is near.

Many: And so we wait.

One: We wait with hope,

Many: for the brokenhearted to be healed,

One: for the downtrodden to be lifted up.

Many: We wait for the coming of the Christ child.

One: In the meantime,

Many: we will sing into the silence. We will light a candle against the

darkness.

Advent Candle #91 "Come, Come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel" (repeat)

Lighting the Advent Wreath Hazel Hubbard & Sarah Lovelace

\*Hymn of Praise #92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

\*Call to Confession Buck Jolley

\*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, forgive us, we ask.

Send rain to wash away the grudges and hatred we nurture.

Send rain to wash away the memories of hurts and neglect.

We confess that we are a broken people, O God,

allowing injustice to continue

and not loving for our neighbors what we love for ourselves.

Send the sun of righteousness, O God, with healing in his wings,

that we may be made whole.

Remind us, O God,

that you have hung up your bow in the clouds,

a promise that you will never again destroy.

Help us to see and know your signs,

and hear your voice directing us to the places

where you will transform our lives and the world. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: How much does God love the world? So much that the only begotten Son took human form and lived among us.

Whoever believes in him will not perish but has eternal life. Friends, believe the good news.

Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

\*Gloria Patri #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon Carrie Wyatt

Anthem "The People Who Walked in Darkness" (Morris) Chancel Choir Hymnal #86

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 (p.631)

Second Reading Matthew 24:36-44 (p.37)

One: The Word of God, for us, the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Noah's Advent Ark" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Study Catechism, Q. 48)

Q. What does it mean that Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead"?

A. Like everyone else, I too must stand in fear and trembling before the judgment seat of Christ. But the Judge is the one who submitted to judgment for my sake. Nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord. All the sinful failures that cause me shame will perish as through fire, while any good I may have done will be received with gladness by God.

Prayers of the People concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory "Still, Still, Still" (arr. Huisman) Jim Simmons

\*Doxology #606 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

\*Charge and Benediction The Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

\*Postlude "Veni Emmanuel" Jim Simmons & Rita Harmon

\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The flowers for worship today are given by Donald and Barbara Ross for the glory of God and to celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Please remember in prayer:

Family & friends of Joy Sprague; Peggy Wyatt; Steve Beheler; Justina Eddy; Jo Jo Ritchie; Trish Tong; Confirmation Class: Layla Lemmonds, Taylor Miller & Leah Miller; Confirmation Sponsors: Michelle Jolly, Hazel Hubbard, & Becky Wheeler; Students from Limestone; lymphoma diagnosis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sunday School Offering for the 4th quarter will be donated to the Free Medical Clinic. This will allow them to purchase supplies they need to help others.

Christmas Parade

Join your church family on the steps of the church for Christmas on Limestone on Friday, December 2. The parade begins at 6 p.m. so bring your chair, blanket, thermos, and whatever else you need to be comfortable as we gather to watch the parade together. 'Tis the season!

Ring the Bells

On Saturday, December 3, we will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in front of Belk. We have several open hours or places where we need one more volunteer. Are you able to help us meet our commitment on that day? A sign-up sheet is available in the church office.

Angel Tree

Please stop by the Angel Tree in the Sanctuary & Family Life Center to choose your angel! This is a wonderful outreach to support our local Salvation Army and community children, we have done a terrific job with this in the past. Please return all unwrapped gifts by Dec. 12. If you would like to participate but are unable to shop for an Angel, you can make a donation and someone will shop for an Angel for you.

Children's Outing

The children of the church will be visiting "Christmas on the Farm" at the Kings Mountain State Park Living History Farm on Saturday, December 10. Children of all ages are welcome to discover how Christmas would have been celebrated in our area in previous centuries. Contact Carrie Wyatt or the church office to sign up.

Soup Kitchen

Will you be in town on Christmas Eve? We still need a couple of volunteers to join the members of the LPC family who will be serving lunch at the Soup Kitchen on December 24. The time commitment is from 10:30 a.m to 1 p.m. If you are able to help, see Barbara Cope.

Women's Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 8, at 6:00pm. The dinner will be catered by J. Michael's. Tickets are on sale now. The cost is \$21.

There will be no Wednesday night supper on December 21 & December 28.

Next week's lectionary readings are:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Advent Devotional

We all know what a Christmas Tree is, but do you know about the Jesse Tree? Isaiah 11:1 says: *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.* Springing from this text, the Jesse Tree is a practice that remembers the people and stories in Hebrew scripture that tell the story of God's relationship with humanity right up to the birth of Jesus. Each day of Advent there is another story to read from scripture and an ornament to color. You can have a tree or branch as a dedicated "Jesse Tree" or simply hang these ornaments on your Christmas tree. During Advent we remember that ever as we are waiting for Jesus' return, God's people in Hebrew scripture were waiting for the Messiah, God's anointed one. Join with your church family in this Advent devotional practice. The list of readings and ornaments to color are in the hallways outside the sanctuary.

## BIRTHDAYS

November 29 – Hugh Fincher  
December 1 – Mason Jolly  
December 3 – Ann Sossamon

### Sunday, November 27

9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
3:00 PM Memorial Service for Doris Smith – Sanctuary & FLC

### Monday, November 28

5:30 PM Girl Scouts  
5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room

### Wednesday, November 30

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Friday, December 2

6:00 PM Gaffney Christmas Parade / Christmas on Limestone

### Saturday, December 3

10am – 5pm Bell Ringing for Salvation Army @ Belk

### Upcoming

Wednesday, November 30; Advent Wreath making

Sunday, December 4; Communion

Sunday, December 4; Poinsettia Orders Due

Thursday, December 8; Women's Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 10; Youth to Living History Christmas

Saturday, December 24; Christmas Eve Service

## NEXT STEPS

- Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Sign up to Ring the Bell for Salvation Army
- Choose your Angel from the Angel Tree
- Purchase your ticket for the Women's Christmas Dinner
- Turn in your Poinsettia order form w/ payment
- Sign up for Christmas on the Farm
- Volunteer for Soup Kitchen
- Pick up your Jesse Tree packet

### MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Barbara Cope	Larry Sossamon	Teresa Spires
Michelle Jolly	Bill Wheeler	Dean Wyatt
Robin Morris	Renee Wiseman (Clerk)	Buck Jolley

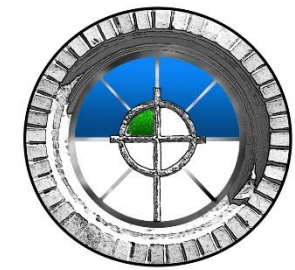
### STAFF

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net  
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Rita Harmon, Organist, mteach1@aol.com  
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QR code for electronic contributions:



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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,  
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,  
TOGETHER



Edward Hicks. *Noah's Ark*. 1846. Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Dr. Chuck Melchert, former professor at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA, wrote an article titled "Why Didn't Jesus Tell Bible Stories?" Think about it...where we might expect Jesus to talk about David and Moses, Deborah and Ruth, Jesus instead talks about seeds and coins and families and sheep. In one of today's readings, however, Jesus references a story from Hebrew scripture. Why that story? Are there other times you can remember Jesus telling a "Bible story?"