

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

11:00 AM

GATHERING

Gathering “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Wagner) Handbell Ensemble

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Prelude “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Wade) Handbell Ensemble

Call to Worship Buck Jolley

One: Our very souls proclaim the greatness of God.

Many: Our spirits are joyful in you, our Savior.

One: We will praise you as long as we live.

Many: We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

One: We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

Many: But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth.

One: You fill the hungry with good things.

Many: You raise up the humble and meek.

One: You remember your promise of mercy.

Many: Our very souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

Advent Candle #91 “Come, Come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel” (repeat)

Lighting the Advent Wreath Joyce Infante and Robin Morris

***Hymn of Praise #113** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

***Call to Confession** Buck Jolley

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.

We confess that sometimes we ignore the Savior
you sent to be among us and to live in us.

We confine the birth of your Son to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment of our lives.

Forgive us for not proclaiming the good news of Christ’s birth,

as your angels did and as the star did,
filling the heavens with tidings of such great joy.

Prepare us for Jesus’ return, we pray.

Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of
redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. 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

Anthem “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (McChesney) Handbell Ensemble

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon Carrie Wyatt

Choral Anthems Chancel Choir

“Tidings of Joy” (Larson)
“Run to Bethlehem” (McDonald)
“Carols Around” (Nygard)
“Noel, Noel” (Spevacek)
“Born Neath a Star / We Three Kings” (Gray)
“Good Christians All, Rejoice” (Red)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (Confession of 1967, 9.50)

The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer.

In that response it commits itself afresh to its mission,

experiences a deepening of faith and obedience,

and bears open testimony to the gospel.

Adoration of God is acknowledgement of the Creator by the creation.

Confession of sin is admission of our guilt before God

and of our need for God’s forgiveness.

Thanksgiving is rejoicing in God’s goodness to us

and in giving for the needs of others.

Petitions and intercessions are addressed to God

for the continuation of God’s goodness, the healing of human ills,

and our deliverance from every form of oppression.

The arts, especially music and architecture,

contribute to the praise and prayer of a Christian congregation

when they help us to look beyond ourselves to God

and to the world which is the object of God’s love.

Service of Giving

Offertory “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing On High” (arr. Previn) 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 #119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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

***Postlude** “The Sussex Carol” (Lau) Rita Harmon

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*\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

**Please remember in prayer:**

Mark Porter; Miriam Burgess; Pam Niesslein; Peggy Wyatt; Steve Beheler;  
Justina Eddy; Jo Jo Ritchie; Trish Tong; Students from Limestone; lymphoma  
diagnosis; Confirmation Class: Layla Lemmonds, Taylor Miller & Leah Miller;  
Confirmation Sponsors: Michelle Jolly, Hazel Hubbard, & Becky Wheeler.

## 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.

**Angel Tree**

Angel Tree gifts are due by TOMORROW. Please return all unwrapped gifts to the Family Life Center. You are more than welcome to send wrapping material for your gifts.

**Art and the Nativity: Bible study with a twist**

Hidden symbols, mysterious guests, interesting architecture...there's more going on in paintings of the Nativity (including the painting on today's bulletin) than you think. Join Lynn in the Family Life Center on Monday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m., for a look at (mostly European) nativity paintings across the centuries. Feel free to invite a friend.

**New Date for Cookie Decorating!**

December 21 from 1pm to 3pm.

Children of LPC, let's celebrate Christmas break by baking trees and stars (cookie ones, that is) in the Family Life Center. All baking materials will be supplied, and we'll have snacks (besides cookies). We'll pack up some cookies as Christmas happies for LPC members, and you'll have some to take home as well. Contact Lynn to let her know your children are participating.

**Advent Devotional**

Jesse Tree ornaments to color and daily readings are available in the hallway on the tree-side of the Sanctuary.

**Next week's lectionary readings are:**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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



The flowers for worship today are given for the glory of God.

## About our Hymns

Did you know you are singing a *macaronic* carol in worship today? *Macaronic* texts include two languages, and in our opening hymn we'll be singing in both English and Latin. The English is easy enough to see. The Latin -- *Gloria in excelsis deo* -- simply means "Glory to God in the highest!" The chorus is directly quoted from Luke 2:14.

Sometimes when we are singing a hymn, the words are changed from the words we first learned. This is hardly a new practice. You'd be amazed to realize how few hymns before the twentieth century in our hymnals appear exactly in their original form. Perhaps the most notable change in our final hymn today was Charles Wesley's first line. The original read, "Hark how all the welkin rings!" "Welkin" is an archaic English term referring to the sky or the firmament of the heavens, even the highest celestial sphere of the angels. This term certainly supported the common eighteenth-century notion of the three-tiered universe, where the top tier includes the celestial beings, the lowest tier the normal activities of humanity (birth, death, marriage, work, sickness) and the natural created order (rain, drought, natural disasters), and the middle tier where celestial beings influence the activities of beings and events on earth with their superhuman powers.

Gratefully, George Whitefield (1740-1770), a powerful preacher and friend to the Wesley brothers, made several changes to this hymn in his Collection (1753). He eschewed the original first line for the scriptural dialogue between heaven and earth. Wesley scholar and professor at Perkins School of Theology, Dr. Ted Campbell, comments on Whitefield's modification of the first line with his characteristic humor: "I have wondered if anybody but Charles knew what a welkin was supposed to be. Maybe John (Wesley, Charles' brother) looked at the draft version and said, 'It's ever so lovely, Charles, but whatever on earth is a 'welkin'?' So, all the more reason to give thanks for the editorial work of George Whitefield." (adapted from C. Michael Hawn, <https://www.mississippi-umc.org/newsdetail/history-of-hymns-angels-we-have-heard-on-high-3216478> and <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-hark-the-herald-angels-sing>)

## STAFF

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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, December 11

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  
2:00 PM Open House – Lynn's home  
5:00 PM Session Meeting – Conference Room

### Monday, December 12

Angel Tree Gifts Due  
5:30 PM Girl Scouts  
6:30 PM Art and the Nativity - FLC

### Wednesday, December 14

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Wednesday, December 21

1:00PM Children's Cooking Baking - FLC

### Saturday, December 24

10:30 AM Soup Kitchen Service  
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

### Upcoming

**Saturday, December 24; Serve at the Soup Kitchen**

**Saturday, December 24; Christmas Eve Service**

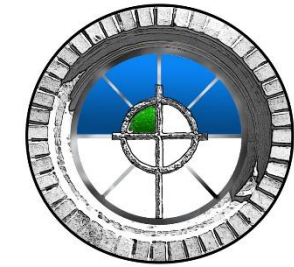
**Sunday, December 25; Christmas Day Worship @ 10am**

## NEXT STEPS

- Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Bring your Angel Tree gifts
- Pick up your Jesse Tree packet
- Sign up to bake cookies
- Pick up your Advent Calendar

## BIRTHDAYS

December 13 – Fran Ross  
December 14 – Marc Quick  
December 17 – Peggy Jolley



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

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



Pieter Bruegel. *The Numbering at Bethlehem*. 1566. Royal Museums of Fine Arts Belgium

The painting above is a *wimmelbilder*, a "busy picture." Children have snowball fights. A man with leprosy takes shelter in a little hut. Soldiers wander through the town. Women pick up sticks. Men slide on the ice. People line up to pay their taxes. A pig is being slaughtered. Just another winter's day in Bethlehem – if Bethlehem were in 16th-century Flanders. But the painting's title tells you that there is more going on here than just another day in a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Flemish village. Isn't that often how Jesus comes to – in the middle of everyday life.

QR code for electronic contributions:



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