

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

11:00 AM

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Prelude "Joy To The World" (arr. Innes)

Rita Harmon & Jim Simmons

Call to Worship

Buck Jolley

One: God is coming to save us. God is coming to heal us.

Many: Who will God send? Will it be a mighty angelic host? Will God send a great warrior?

One: God will send a child.

Many: But a child has no voice, no power, no influence. A child cannot change the world. Why would God send a child?

One: With God, even a child can change the world.

Many: A child needs to be loved and cared for. Much of our energy will be consumed in caring for the child.

One: The child is the gift that God sends. We will learn from the child.

Many: We will learn to reach out in love. We will learn about loving and caring. We will learn that we can love because God first loved us.

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Wheeler Family

*Hymn of Praise #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Call to Confession

Buck Jolley

*Prayer of Confession

Loving God, a week from now the world will say it is all over.

We will have opened presents,

perhaps we will have come to worship,

and the cleaning up will begin.

In stores, Christmas decorations will give way

to Valentine hearts and Mardi Gras beads and Easter bunnies.

Forgive us, we pray.

Forgive us when we follow the world in ending Christmas

instead of beginning our celebration on Christmas Day.

Forgive us when we hurry the magi to the manger

rather than giving them the opportunity to reveal what their visit means.

Forgive us, we pray. Restore us.

Show us how to carry this season so that Christ may be born in us.

Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

One: The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! In Christ, we are set free from the past. We belong to the future. This is what hope feels like. 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

Away in a Manger no crib for his bed...

The little Lord Jesus, laid down His sweet head

The stars in the sky, look down where he lay.

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Jingle Bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is near!

Oh, what fun it is to sing of Jesus and His birthday!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is near!

Oh, what fun it is to sing of Jesus and His birthday!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas (3 times)

And a Happy New Year

We all know its Jesus' Birthday (3 times)

And soon will be here!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas (3 times)

And a Happy New Year!

Anthem

"Silent The Night" (Schram)

Chancel Choir

Silent the night in darkness deep; gentle is Mary's joy.

Loving the vigil the angels keep over the baby Boy.

Lullay, thou little tiny Child, bye-bye, lully, lullay.

Lullay, thou little tiny Child, bye-bye, lully lullay.

Silent the night; no banners wave to welcome the Child divine.

But the promise is fulfilled in a humble cave: Jesus' birth the holy sign.

Silent the night, all is calm, all is bright.

'Round yon virgin mother and Child.

Holy Infant so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Lullay, thou little tiny Child, bye-bye, lully, lullay.

Lullay, thou little tiny Child, bye-bye, lully, lullay.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Pew Bible OT p.636)

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible NTp.1)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Rearranging Your 'Jesus Farm'"

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

(The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand

of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Service of Giving

Offertory

"At the Manger"

David Thompson

*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 #121

"O' Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard On High" (Mansfield)

Rita Harmon

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

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

Please remember in prayer:

Butch Carroll; Noah Lindemann; Mark Porter; Miriam Burgess; 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.

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

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree this year!

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 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14.

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

The Church Office will be closed on the following dates for the Christmas and New Year's holidays: 12/22 - 12/26 & 12/29 - 1/3.

Our Library Needs Some Love

And "love" to a library looks like people wandering by, looking at books on the shelves, maybe even opening a book or two. We are looking for random reviewers -- folks who would wander in the library, choose something from the shelves, "read" it, and write a paragraph or two about it for a Thursday newsletter. Maybe it's a reference book. Maybe it's a commentary about your favorite book of the Bible (do you have one?). Perhaps it's one of the children's books. What's in our library? Help us discover some forgotten treasures (or discover that we might need to be thinking about some new treasures). No need to sign up...just wander to the library, choose a book, and turn in your review to Lynn.

Praying the Advent Wreath

We've been lighting candles for four weeks now, and we are only one week away from Christmas. In this last week of Advent, take time to pray about each of the candles we have lit. You might use one or more of these prompts:

Week 1: Hope

Give thanks for the hope we have in Jesus Christ and for our hope in God's future.

Pray for the people whose lives seem hopeless.

Pray for insight about how we can bring hope to the world.

Week 2: Peace

Pray for the places in our world where peace does not exist -- in countries like Ukraine but also in places where people are protesting, trying to change things.

Pray for peace in your own life.

Give thanks for the peace we have (though, remember, Jesus said he doesn't give his peace isn't peace as the world gives. (John 14:27)

Week 3: Joy

Pray a joyous prayer -- joyful in tone, joyful in content.

Use the words of "Joy to the World!" as a prayer.

Pray for the people who struggle to find joy in their lives.

Week 4: Love

Pray for everyone in your life that you love. List them by name.

Pray for everyone in your life that it is hard to love. List them by name.

Pray for God to help you love others in the same way that God loves you.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, December 18

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

Monday, December 19

5:30 PM Girl Scouts

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

Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM Christmas Morning Worship – FLC

Upcoming

12/22-12/26 Church Office Closed

12/29-1/3 Church Office Closed

Sunday, Jan. 8 Remove Christmas decorations

NEXT STEPS

- Pick up your Jesse Tree packet
- Sign up to bake cookies
- Pick up your Advent Calendar

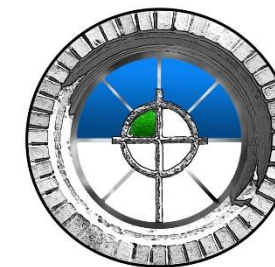
BIRTHDAYS

December 20 – Johnny Wyatt

December 25 – Joyce Infante

December 26 – Samuel Wyatt

December 27 – Will Spires



LIMESTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Illumination from the 15th-century Besançon Book of Hours showing the Nativity with Mary reading while Joseph cradles the Christ Child. Fitzwilliam MS 69 folio 48r. Vellum. 22.2 x 16.5 cm. The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England, UK.

STAFF

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net

Rita Harmon, Organist, mteach1@aol.com

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller, Pastor, limestone.presby.pastor@gmail.com

Vicki Miller, Nursery Attendant, vsmiller@yahoo.com

Sharon Thompson, Music Director, Mozart1121@aol.com

Carrie Wyatt, Director Children & Youth Ministries, carewyatt@gmail.com

QR code for electronic contributions:



CONNECT WITH US: limestone-presbyterian.com/ 864-489-6079
 /limestonepresbyterian  @limestone_pres_gaffney
109 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET • GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA

In this season of preparation and busy-ness, it is good to remember that there is no such thing as generic holiness. There is no single way to live "the Christian life." There is only real life. There is only the time and place where our very real, very concrete lives intersect with the power of God's Word and God's transformative grace. Imagine – God comes to live in the midst of our lives – to change us where we are, to work in our stories, in our limitations, in our needs, in our desires. And God has been doing that for 2,000 years.