

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Buck Jolley

GATHERING

Prelude “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (French Carol) Rita Harmon & Jim Simmons

Call to Worship

Buck Jolley

One: In Advent we remember the baby born in Bethlehem,

Many: And we look for that baby in the laughter of children and the care of parents.

One: In Advent we look for the Child of Christmas,

Many: And we bring gifts of hope to the children of our world.

One: In Advent we wait and hope for the Christ who returns for us.

Many: We find the Christ where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy. That is the day for which we wait. Let us worship the One who has promised us that day.

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Blanton Family

***Hymn of Praise #88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***Call to Confession**

Buck Jolley

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we can see the times when our faith is rooted deeply in you, Because in those times

our choices reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness.

We confess that sometimes our lives

are so entangled with the values of the world,

that your values take second place.

Forgive us, O God,

when we choose to ignore your light,

thinking that we have all the answers.

Smooth down the mountains of our pride, we pray.

Lift up the valleys of our doubts.

Make a path in the wilderness of our lives

that we might find our way to you again. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. 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 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (Picardy) Chancel Choir

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,

Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,

Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;

He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,

As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,

That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears a way.

Alleluia!

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 (p.640)

Second Reading

Matthew 3:1-12 (p.2)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“About Trees”

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

(A Declaration of Faith, 1.4)

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.

The Bible is the account of God’s word and action in history, together with his people’s response in faith.

It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church

towards the kingdom of God,

his just and loving rule over all.

It is the story of the one God,

who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

That story is still unfolding

and in faith we make it our own.

It forms our memory and our hope.

It tells us who we are and what we are to do.

To retell it is to declare what we believe.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer)

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

God of new beginnings, in word and sacrament you draw near to us,

you strengthen and renew us. We thank you for this meal we share and

the stories of love, grace, joy, and hope that it tells. Amen.

Service of Giving

Offertory

“Coventry Carol”

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 #110**

“Love Has Come”

***Charge and Benediction**

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

***Postlude**

“Italian Hymn” (Broughton)

Rita Harmon

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

The flowers for worship today are given for the glory of God by Don and Barbara Ross.

Please remember in prayer:

Miriam Burgess; Gibbie Peeler; 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.

Poinsettia Orders

TODAY is the deadline to order poinsettias to be placed in the church for Christmas.

Angel Tree

This is the last week for the Angel Tree. 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. Children of all ages are welcome to discover how Christmas would have been celebrated in our area in previous centuries. Meet at the church at noon Saturday. Please eat lunch before you come.

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.

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 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.

Next week’s lectionary readings are:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

It's the Most Cookie-ful Time of the Year

Children of LPC, let's celebrate the first afternoon of Christmas break by baking trees and stars (cookie ones, that is) in the Family Life Center on Friday, December 16. We'll start at 1:00 p.m. and be done by 3 p.m. 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.

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

Advent Devotional

We all know what a Chrismon 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 even 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 the ornaments to color are in the hallways outside the sanctuary.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A
Christmas Open House
AT THE HOME OF
Lynn Miller
905 S. Johnson Street
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

STAFF

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net
Jeff Cavender, Custodian, jwcavender@hughes.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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, December 4

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 5

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

Wednesday, December 7

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

Thursday, December 8

6:00 PM Women's Christmas Dinner – FLC

Saturday, December 10

Youth trip to Christmas on the Farm at Kings Mountain

Upcoming

Sunday, December 11; Christmas music in Worship

Sunday, December 11; Open House at Lynn's

Monday, December 12; Art and the Nativity

Monday, December 12; Angel Tree gifts due

Friday, December 16; Christmas cookie baking

Saturday, December 24; Serve at the Soup Kitchen

Saturday, December 24; Christmas Eve Service

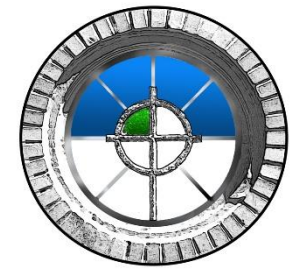
NEXT STEPS

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

BIRTHDAYS

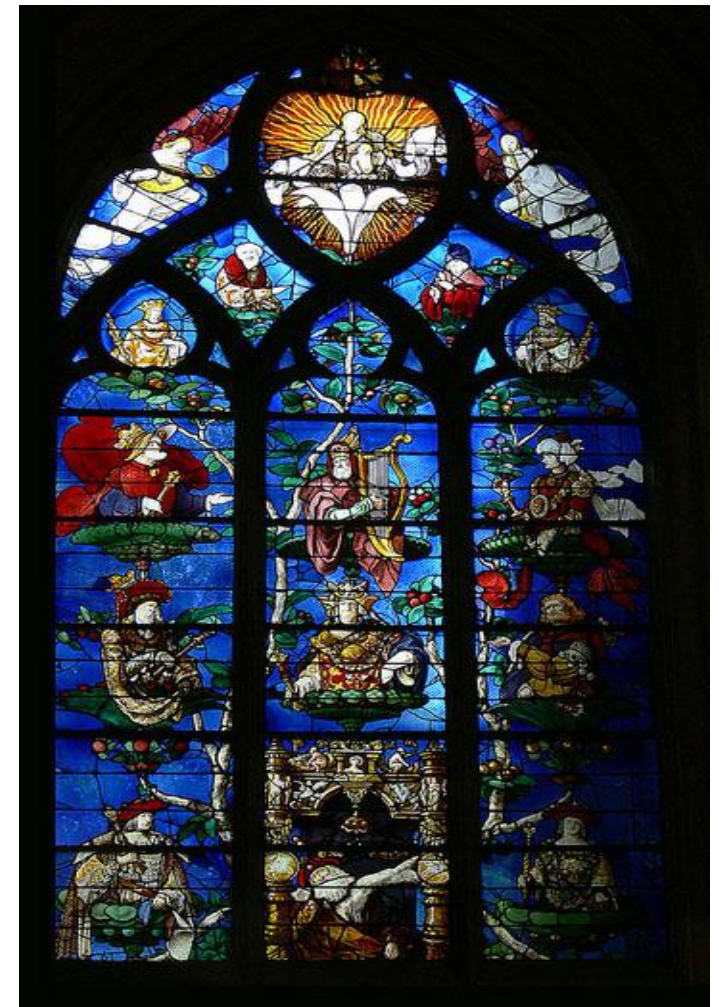
December 9 – Aedan Mendoza

December 13 – Fran Ross



LIMESTONE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Engrand Le Prince. *Jesse Tree*. 1522. Church of St. Etienne, Beauvais, France

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109 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET • GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA

At the beginning of both Matthew's and Luke's gospels, Jesus' genealogy is recited. If you compare the two family trees, however, you'll see that they don't match exactly. Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17), believed to have been written to a community of Jewish Christians, traces Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham, the father of the Jews. Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:21-38) traces Jesus' ancestry back to Adam (and God). Who do you suppose Luke's original audience was? Why do you think these gospel writers believed it was important to include a genealogy? Why didn't they include the same genealogy?