

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 202311:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRobin Morris

GATHERING

Prelude“Come, Thou Almighty King” (Martin)Rita Harmon

Call to WorshipRobin Morris

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Many: a time to be born, and a time to die;

One: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

Many: a time to break down, and a time to build up;

One: a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

Many: a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

One: a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

Many: a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

One: a time to tear, and a time to sew;

Many: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

One: God has made everything suitable for its time.

*Hymn of Praise #143“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

*Call to ConfessionRobin Morris

*Prayer of Confession

Immortal God, you inhabit eternity
and have brought us, your servants,
to the beginning of another year.

Forgive our transgressions of the past, we pray.

Through Jesus Christ, you have proven
that you are willing to make all things new.

Make us new, we pray.

Bring us to the heavenly country
where there is no hunger or thirst,
and where there are no more tears. 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 prays for us. Anyone
who is in Christ is a new creation – the past is over and 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 SermonRev. Matt Horne

Hymn # 146“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

First ReadingEcclesiastes 3:1-13 (Pew Bible OT p.616)

Second ReadingRevelation 22:1-6 (Pew Bible NT p.260)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon“So What’s New With You”Rev. Matt Horne

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.

Prayers of the Peopleconcluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory“One Small Child” (Meece)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 #136“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Matt Horne

*Postlude“Recessional on St.Denio” (Edward)Rita Harmon

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\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

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

For the New Year

John Wesley established covenant services as an important part of Methodist life. Most often held on New Year’s Day (or on a Sunday near the beginning of a new year), covenant renewal services offered congregations and individuals the opportunity to once again promise that they would be God’s people. Wesley never published a particular liturgy, but he did publish portions of *An Alarm to the Unconverted* and *Directions for Believers Covenanting with God*, both by Presbyterian (Puritan) minister Joseph Alleine.

Below is a covenant portion of a contemporary covenant renewal service. First is the explanatory section that would be read by a minister (in italics) and then the congregational affirmation (in bold). Reading and affirming such a covenant may be a way you choose to start your new year.

*In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a  
special people and to obey the law.*

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection,  
has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.*

*We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.*

*On the one side, God promises in this covenant  
to give us new life in Christ.*

*On the other side, we are pledge to live not for ourselves but for God.*

*Today, therefore, we meet*

*to renew the covenant which binds us to God.*

*Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with God’s people,  
and accept the yoke of Christ.*

*To accept the yoke of Christ means that we  
allow Christ to guide all that we do and are,  
and that Christ himself is our only reward.*

*Christ has many services to be done;  
some are easy, others are difficult;  
some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach;  
some we desire to do because of our own interests;  
others seem unnatural.*

*Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs*

*At other times we cannot please Christ  
unless we deny ourselves.*

*Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us  
the power to do all these things.*

*Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own.*

*Let us give ourselves completely to God,  
trusting in God’s promises and relying on God’s grace.*

**I give myself completely to you, God.**

**Put me to what you will, place me where you will.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Give me many tasks**

**or have me step aside while you call others.**

**Put me forward or humble me.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you.**

**And now holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,**

**You are mine and I am yours. So be it.**

**And the covenant I have made on earth,**

**let it also be made in heaven. Amen.**

**Please remember in prayer:**  
Butch Carroll; Noah Lindemann; Mark Porter; Miriam Burgess; 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 1<sup>st</sup> quarter will be donated to Smile Train.

**Epiphany Party**  
Next Sunday (1/8), the children will have an Epiphany party during Sunday  
School. Cake included. Join us for all the fun. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.

**Remove Decorations**  
We will meet next Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm to remove the Christmas  
decorations from the church.

**Contribution envelopes** for 2023 are in the church narthex. If you did not  
receive a set but would like one, please get in touch with either Jim Watts or  
the church office.

**Next week's lectionary readings are:**  
Isaiah 14:1-9; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

**STAFF**  
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, January 1**  
9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

**Wednesday, January 4**  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

**Thursday, January 5**  
7:30 PM Circle 4 – Becky Wheeler's home

**Sunday, January 8**  
9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School – Epiphany Party  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
2:00 PM Remove Christmas decorations

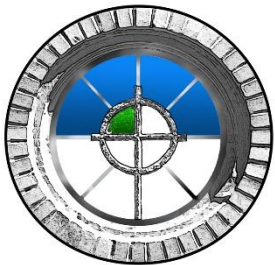
**Upcoming**  
**Sunday, January 8; Remove Christmas decorations**  
**Tuesday, January 10; Circle 1**

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Review a book from our Library

BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Sarah Lovelace  
January 3 – Louise Watts  
January 5 – Sylvia Caldwell  
January 7 – Lib Allen  
January 7 – Barbara Grinter



**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)  
WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,  
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,  
TOGETHER



“Behold, I Make All Things New.” 1405-1408. Great East Window, York Minster. York, UK.

And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
“See, I am making all things new.”  
--Revelation 21:5

QR code for electronic contributions:



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