

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 202311:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude“Jesus Loves Me” (Page)David Thompson

Call to WorshipBob McCully
We are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ.
In our baptism we are born to eternal life.
Jesus is always faithful, even when we betray him.
Jesus claims us as his own, even when we deny him.
Jesus clothes us in his righteousness, even when we give him a crown of thorns.
Jesus blesses us with his word, even when we mock and curse him.
Jesus pours out his grace for us, even when we give him sour wine.
Jesus gives his life to save us, even though we crucified him.
Jesus calls us here to this place.
Let us worship him in spirit and in truth.

*Hymn of Praise #687“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”
~~Please bring your Lenten Prayer Slips forward during this hymn~~

*Call to ConfessionBob McCully

*Prayer of Confession
Creator God,
you delighted in creating the world in beauty and harmony.
But too often we give in to temptation
that disrupts the joyous order of your universe.
We cannot undo all our mistakes,
but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus
and ask for forgiveness. Forgive us, we pray.
Help us grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds.
Help us take good learning from difficult situations.
Show us how to repair the things that break
because of the unintended consequences of our actions.
Lead us to find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.
Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon
Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin, God made a way
for them to be connected to the earth and to God’s living presence. So it is
with all of us: we are able to persist, to repent, to move forward because of
the forgiveness found in Christ’s life, ministry, death and resurrection.
Friends, believe the good news.
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

Sermon on the StepsMimi McCully

Anthem“More Love To Thee” (Kingsmore)Chancel Choir
More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee, more love to Thee.
Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
now Thee alone I seek; give what is best. This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee, more love to Thee.
Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
this be the parting cry my heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee, more love to Thee!
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee, more love to Thee.
More love to Thee, more love to Thee.
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee, more love to Thee.

First ReadingPsalm 32 (Pew Bible OT p.506)
Second ReadingMatthew 4:1-11 (Pew Bible NT p.3)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit“David and Goliath”Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith(A Declaration of Faith, 4.3)
Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant
Jesus taught with authority,
challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death
without a word on his own behalf.
He forgave sinners,
yet he was counted among sinners.
We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
He did what only God can do.
We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.
When he lived as a servant
and went humbly to his death
the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.
In both his majesty and lowliness
Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
God with us.

Prayers of the Peopleconcluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory“Take My Life And Let It Be” (Hendon)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 #465“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“Adoration” (Rinck)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 in honor of Lynn  
Miller’s birthday from the Limestone Presbyterian Congregation. We are  
blessed to have you here with us.

Please remember in prayer:  
Dan Painter; Friends & Family of Ken Byers; Dave Pingitore; Larry Vincent;  
Peggy Wyatt; Jenni, Ashton & Evaleigh Lail; Justina Eddy; Henry Lewis; Nicholas  
Parker; Bobby Westmoreland; Anna Cox; Steve Beheler; 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.

Next week’s lectionary readings are:  
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.

Prayer Slips  
During the season of Lent, you will find prayer slips in the bulletin. You are  
invited to write your prayer concerns and requests on those slips, come to the  
cross during the first hymn, and place your prayer on one of the nails in the  
cross. Our prayers will be gathered throughout the season.

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Our Wednesday night programs during Lent will support our reading through Luke's gospel. We'll have some intergenerational Bible study, some crafts, some baking, some drama, some games, and more during Lent as we Journey to Jerusalem. Join us this Wednesday night (March 1) after supper in the Family Life Center this week as we begin the Journey. Our program will help us think about Jesus and walking and journeys and sandals and geography as well as our own answers to Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

Bible 101

On Tuesday, February 28, we will begin our 6-week overview of the Bible. The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis, faculty member at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, will begin our study with conversation about "How We Got the Bible We Have." Please join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Resources for Lent

The season of Lent is a time of self-examination and sacrifice. The various ways Christians observe Lent are as diverse as our personalities! We can sacrifice to get closer to God or we can take on something. In today's devotional A *Redeemed Captive*, we are reminded that we are all slaves to sin but redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Continue your Lenten time of daily reading, reflection, prayer, and giving, using “**REDEEMED**”, the devotional booklet prepared for your use by the Society of St. Andrew.

STAFF

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, February 26

9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

Monday, February 27

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

Tuesday, February 28

6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

Wednesday, March 1

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

Sunday, March 5

9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

Upcoming

March 2 – Circle 4  
March 14 – Circle 1

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Review a book from our Library
- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Pick up your Lent Resources

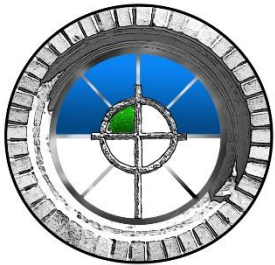
BIRTHDAYS

February 26 – Julie Sossamon  
February 26 – Mimi McCully  
February 27 – Lynn Miller  
February 28 – Landon Wyatt

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



Briton Riviere. *Christ in the Wilderness*. 1898, London: Guildhall Art Gallery.

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

--Isaiah 43:19