

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "There Is A Fountain" (Larson) David Thompson

Call to Worship Barbara Cope

All who thirst—come to the water!
You who long for the water of life—come and drink!
Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness;
Quench your thirst at God’s well of grace.
For God is here among us,
offering living water to all who would drink.
God alone can provide living water.
We will worship God together!

***Hymn of Praise #396** "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"
~~Please bring your Lenten Prayer Slips forward during this hymn~~

***Call to Confession** Barbara Cope

***Prayer of Confession**
Holy God, fount of every blessing,
We come to you this morning,
knowing there are places in our lives that are parched.
We long to drink from the springs of living water you offer to us.
So often we don’t even know we are thirsty.
But then, when our thirst pangs emerge,
we are content to draw from the wells of the world --
offering temporary satisfaction
but ultimately leaving us even more empty.
Forgive us, God, for settling for something less than you offer.
Fill us with your living water that will transform our spirits and souls
into springs that burst forth with life and love
for your people, for ourselves, and for our world.
Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**
It was God who hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation, who split the heavens open and descended upon Jesus, the Beloved Son, in the waters of the Jordan, who declared that each one us is fearfully and wonderfully made. It was God who, in our own baptism, has called us beloved children. It was God who so loved the world that Jesus walked the earth in order to secure our salvation. 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 Steps Carrie Wyatt

Anthem "I Will Arise" (Restoration) Chancel Choir
I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior. Oh! Here are ten thousand charms.
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to hear thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of thy redeeming love.
I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7 (Pew Bible OT p.10)

Second Reading John 4:4-52 (Pew Bible NT p.93)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Thirsty For What?" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (A Declaration of Faith, 1.1)
God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything.
We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God's Word and Spirit.
God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ.
God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it.
We acknowledge God's care and control in the regularity of the universe as well as in apparently random happenings.
There is no event from which God is absent and God’s ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving.
That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished.
The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

Prayers of the People concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory "O Lamb of God, I Come" (Broughton) Rita Harmon

***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 #65** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

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

***Postlude** "Choral Prelude on Rejoice the Lord Is King" (arr. Johnson) Rita Harmon

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

The arrangement in worship today is given for the glory of God. As we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, we remember the landscape where Jesus walked his earthly journey and the food that landscape produced.

**Please remember in prayer:**  
Wyatt Aiken; Emma June; Dave Newkirk; Carl Raleigh; Friends & Family of Judy Stauffer; 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:**  
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

**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**  
It's a pretty common thing. It can help us think about prayer (which is an excellent thing to consider during Lent). We're going to make it. Join us on Wednesday night, March 15, to find out what "it" is.

**Resources for Lent**  
In today’s devotion in **“REDEEMED”**, *Tell It*, the writer describes the feelings of helplessness we feel when the bills stack up and there’s no money coming in. The Society of St. Andrew challenges us to remember our desperate 40 million children and adults here in the United States who suffer from hunger, and struggle to put enough food on the table each day. Does your daily spiritual focus this season include giving? Every \$3.00 you set aside for The Society of St. Andrew will put 26 healthy meals on the plates of those who need it most, giving both you and them a blessing!  
We are receiving an offering for the Society of St. Andrew today. You may bring the coin bank you received in worship or designate "Society of St. Andrew" on a check or through the QR code.

**Circle 1** will meet Tuesday, March 14, at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. The Bible study will be "Sabbath and Hospitality." All are invited to share the Bible study and a time of fellowship.

#### **Bible 101**

On Tuesday, March 14, we continue our ongoing study of the Bible with the books of Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon) and the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel). We begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

#### **An Odd Couple: Jonah and Ruth: A new class**

We will begin a new adult study on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:45. The class will use the Kerygma resource written by Carol J. Miller, a Methodist elder. We will explore "long ago and far away" stories of an unusual prophet named Jonah and of a faithful daughter-in-law named Ruth. What do Jonah and Ruth have in common? Why are they linked together in this study and called "an odd couple"? All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings in the parlor at 9:45.

### **THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY**

**March 13, 452:** Roman Emperor Marcian issues an edict against the Eutychians, who taught that Christ's divine nature absorbed his human nature, making him one person with one nature rather than one person with two natures (fully human *and* fully divine).

**March 15, 1411:** Reformer Jan Hus, whose work influenced Martin Luther, is excommunicated for his preaching against the greed and immorality of the clergy and the superstitious practices of the church. In addition, the excommunication document also punished the people of Prague (where Hus preached) by forbidding them to receive the sacraments.

**March 17, 1737:** First St. Patrick's Day celebration in America.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### **Sunday, March 12**

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, March 13**

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

#### **Tuesday, March 14**

10:30 AM Circle 1 – Parlor  
6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

#### **Wednesday, March 15**

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

#### **Sunday, March 19**

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  
12:30 PM Session Meeting – Conference Room

#### **Upcoming**

April 2 – Palm Sunday  
April 2-8 – Holy Week  
April 9 – Easter Sunday

### NEXT STEPS

- Make a reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Plan to be at Sunday School for the study of Jonah and Ruth
- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- Pick up your Lent Resources

### Praying for Our Congregation

Elizabeth Benson  
Nancy Blanton  
Vincent Anokye  
Jason Blanton

### STAFF

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QR code for electronic contributions:

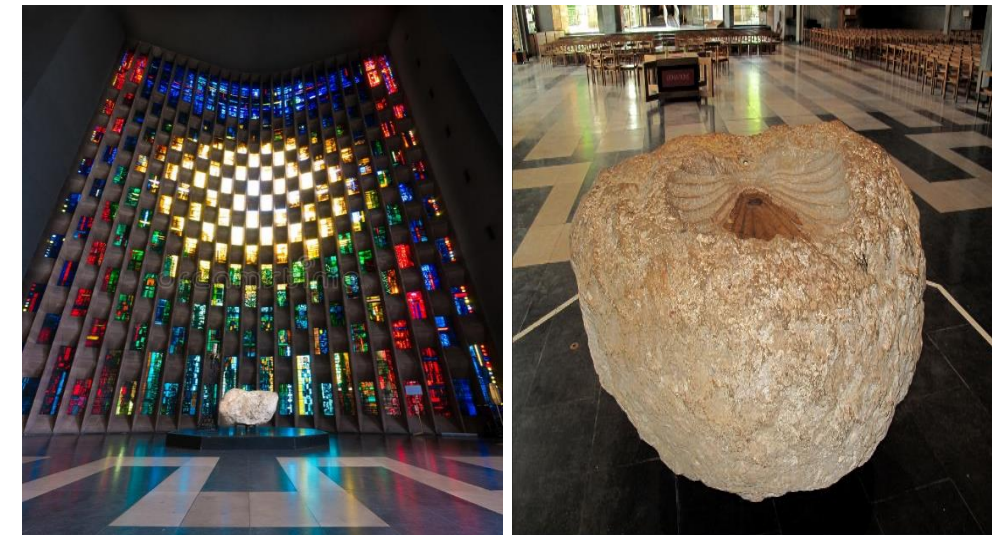


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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Ralph Beyer. Baptismal Font. Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, England. The rock, a boulder from near Bethlehem, has a carved basin on top in the form of a scallop shell.

Standing round the font reminds us of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge God has been this way before.  
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.

--Fred Kaan, 1965 (Verse 3, Hymn 484, *Glory to God*)