

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "Praise for the Morning" (Smith)

Rita Harmon

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 23)

Becky Wheeler

The Lord is our Shepherd, providing everything we need.

God lets us rest in green meadows and leads us beside quiet streams.

God renews our strength and guides us in ways that honor God's name.

Even when we walk through difficult valleys we will not fear, because God is never far away.

The Lord protects and comforts.

The Lord guards and guides every step we take.

God prepares a feast for us in the presence of our enemies.

God welcomes us as friends and lavishes blessings on us.

God's goodness and unfailing love will chase after us all the days of our lives,

and when our lives on earth are over, we will spend eternity in God's presence.

This is the God we have come to worship.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn of Praise #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

*Call to Confession Becky Wheeler

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God; We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful God, for his sake that we may hereafter live a holy, just, and humble life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon (1 Peter 2:21-25) Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. 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 "Shepherd Psalm" (Carter) Chancel Choir The Lord is my shepherd, There's nothing more I'll ever need; I'll lie down to dream in a pasture of green, I'll follow wherever he leads me. The Lord is my shepherd, Beside the still waters I go; My soul is restored when I walk with my Lord, His righteousness 'round me will flow. And if I should walk in the shadow of death, I will not be afraid; My shepherd, the Lord, goes wherever I go, His rod and his staff are my comfort. I know that the Lord is my shepherd, I'll sit at his table to dine; His goodness and mercy will follow my days, And heaven will surely be mine, And Heaven will always be mine.

First Reading Acts 2:42-47 (Pew Bible NT p.120)

Second Reading John 10:1-10 (Pew Bible NT p.103)

The Word of God, for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Flocking" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (A Brief Statement of Faith, selected) We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Prayers of the People concluding with the Lord's Prayer (page 35 in hymnal)

Service of Giving

Offertory "Just As I Am" (arr. Potter) 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 #803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude "Gavotte" (Wesley) Rita Harmon

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The arrangement in worship today is given for the glory of God and in honor of Andrew Wheeler's birthday by the Wheeler Family.

Please remember in prayer: Buck Jolley; friend having surgery; Tanner Jones; Justina Eddy; Nancy Smith; Hugh Fincher; Tommy Bedenbaugh & family; our neighbors experiencing homelessness; a friend facing heart surgery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

Sunday School Offering 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Sunday School offering will go to the Imagination Library.

Graduates If anyone in your family is graduating this year, please let the church office know. We need all graduate information by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Circle 4 Circle 4 will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Church Parlor with Barbara Jarman hosting. Renee Wiseman will lead the group through the study of Lesson Eight. All are welcome to join us for this time of Bible Study and Fellowship.

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

We began 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.

### New Church Directory

We have re-sent the link to the online Church Directory Form, and there are hard copies available in the FLC. Please fill them out and return as soon as possible. Don't forget your appointment time to have your photo made for the directory.

### THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**April 30, 1882:** Nlemvo (Mantantu Dundulu) converts to Christianity, the first Protestant convert in the Congo. He will collaborate in translating the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms into the Kikongo language, with other Christian literature.

**May 2, 373:** Death of Athanasius in Alexandria, Egypt. More than any other man, he took up the fight for Christ's divinity in his writings. Five times he had been forced into exile. Slander dogged him. Yet he remained faithful to his vision of an uncreated Christ. He was the first to list the books of the New Testament as we know them.

**May 6, 1536:** King Henry VIII of England orders that an English-language Bible be placed in every church in the nation.

### Praying for Our Congregation

We are praying for every member of our church family. Each week we invite you to pray for particular members. This week we are praying for:

Jordan Bagwell  
Vicki Miller  
Melinda Hart

### STAFF

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net  
Rita Harmon, Organist, mteach1@aol.com  
James Hart, Custodian, James.Hart199521@gmail.com  
Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller, Pastor, limestone.presby.pastor@gmail.com  
Vicki Miller, Nursery Attendant, vsrmiller@yahoo.com  
Sharon Thompson, Music Director, Mozart1121@aol.com  
Carrie Wyatt, Director Children & Youth Ministries, carewyatt@gmail.com

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, April 30

9:45 AM Sunday School – 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, May 1

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

### Wednesday, May 3

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Thursday, May 4

7:00 PM Circle 4 – Church Parlor

### Sunday, May 7

9:45 AM Sunday School – 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

May 8 – No handbell rehearsal  
May 9 – Circle 1  
May 12 – Congregational Steak Dinner

### NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- Complete and return your Church Directory Form
- Contribute to our hymnbook loan program (see 3/26 LimeLight for more information)
- Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Make reservations for the May 12 dinner (see last week's LimeLight)



QR code for electronic contributions:

CONNECT WITH US: [limestone-presbyterian.com/](https://www.limestone-presbyterian.com/) 864-489-6079  
 /limestonepresbyterian  @limestone\_pres\_gaffney  
109 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET • GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA



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

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



Jean-Luc Cornec. **TribuT Telephone Sheep.** <https://www.jeanluc.cornec.de/tribut-telephon-sheep>

There is no chance thing through which God cannot speak – even the walk from the house to the garage that you have walked ten thousand times before, even the moments when you cannot believe there is a God who speaks at all anywhere. Sometimes we avoid listening for fear of what we may hear, sometimes for fear that we may hear nothing at all but the empty rattle of our own feet on the pavement. But “be not afraid,” says Jesus, “for lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” He says he is with us on our journeys. He says he has been with us since each of our journeys began. Listen for him. Listen to the sweet and bitter airs of your present and your past for the sound of him.

~ Frederick Buechner, from *The Sacred Journey and Listening to Your Life*