

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 202311:00 AM

Music for Gathering “Come Christians, Join to Sing” (McChesney) Handbell Ensemble

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude “Fairest Lord Jesus” (Larson) Handbell Ensemble

Call to WorshipRenee Wiseman

Why are we looking up to heaven?
Christ has died;
Christ has risen;
Christ will come again.
The Holy Spirit is among us now.
In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.
The Holy Spirit leads us to look to the future.
To the time when Christ will return.
In Christ, we have the promise of new life now,
eternal life to come.
In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God,
who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God
even as we are called to do Christ’ work on earth.

*Hymn of Praise #634 “To God Be the Glory”

*Call to ConfessionRenee Wiseman

*Prayer of Confession
Almighty God,
we confess that we often have our eyes set in the clouds
instead of on the earth You have given us.
We want heavenly treasure
but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it.
Forgive us for our short sightedness.
Draw us away from the temptations
of worldly power and measures of success,
and call us to the down-to-earth message of Your love:
to care for the needs of those around us,
to care for the widows and orphans among us;
to care for those who are left out by society and are in need.
Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed,
so that we may truly be one,
as You and Christ are one.
For it is in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon
Jesus Christ, our great high priest, has gone before, has entered into the
Holy of Holies, and has opened up a way for us to follow. Friends, believe
the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Assurance of Pardon Response #447
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the StepsHonoring Our GraduatesRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Anthem “What Wondrous Love” (McChesney) Handbell Ensemble

First Reading Luke 24:44-53 (Pew Bible NT p.90)

Second Reading Acts 1:1-11 (Pew Bible NT p.118)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit “Rising” Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (Heidelberg Catechism, 4.049)

49 Q. How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he is our advocate in heaven
in the presence of his Father.
Second, we have our own flesh in heaven
as a sure pledge that Christ our head
will also take us up to himself.
Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth
as a corresponding pledge.
By the Spirit’s power we seek not earthly things
but the things above, where Christ is,
sitting at God’s right hand.

*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.

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

Service of Giving

Offertory “Rescue the Perishing” (Pethel) 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 #547 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (Prichard) Rita Harmon

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\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The floral arrangement in worship today is given for the glory of God and in  
gratitude to LPC for allowing us to meet in your beautiful Family Life Center.  
We thank you so much; From Cherokee County School Nurses.

Please remember in prayer:  
Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Peggy Wyatt; Buck Jolley; Emma June; DeAnna Tock,  
Justina Eddy; the family of Sandra Woodlief; Alex Copeland; Harper Blanton &  
Landon Wyatt as they participate in the Learning to Use My Bible class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23.

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

Yoga  
Yoga class today! 4-5pm in the FLC. All are welcome.

What Is Your Favorite Verse?  
Landon Wyatt and Harper Blanton have completed a class introducing them to  
the Bible – what’s in it, what’s where, how to find things, etc. We hope this will  
be the beginning of lifelong learning about the story of God’s relationship with  
humans. Harper and Landon’s Bibles will be in the church office this week. We  
invite each of you to come by the office and sign their Bibles, perhaps writing a  
short note of encouragement to them. You might highlight your favorite verse  
and tell why you find the verse meaningful. You may want to highlight a verse  
that encourages them in their faith. The Bibles will be in the office all week.  
Next Sunday in worship we will present their Bibles to them, visibly filled with  
the love and support of their church family. Please come by the church office  
this week and add to these Bibles.

- Join us in congratulating our 2023 graduates:
- Aedan Garcia Mendoza graduating from Chesnee High School
  - Gavin Samuel Blanton graduating from Gaffney High School
  - Jordan Joseph Mathis graduating from Gaffney High School
  - Jenni Spires Lail graduating with an MBA and Masters of Science in Health Informatics from Limestone University
  - Rhonda L. Johns graduating with an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from City University of Seattle (December 2022)

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**May 22, 337:** Death of Constantine, the first Roman emperor to consider himself a Christian. He had issued an edict officially tolerating Christianity and summoned the Council of Nicaea to settle the Arian dispute over the nature of Christ.

**May 24, 1543:** Death of Polish cleric and astronomer Nicolas Copernicus. Copernicus participated in a Roman Catholic religious community at the cathedral of Frauenburg. Copernicus formulated a model of the universe with the sun at its center rather than the earth. In 1633, Galileo Galilei will be convicted by the Inquisition for "following the position of Copernicus, which is contrary to the true sense and authority of Holy Scripture."

**May 27, 1564:** Death at Geneva, Switzerland, of John Calvin, reformer and theologian.

### 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:

Scott Berry

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, May 21

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  
12:30 PM Session Meeting – Conference Room  
4:00 PM Yoga class – FLC

### Monday, May 22

5:30 PM Girl Scouts

### Wednesday, May 24

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Sunday, May 28

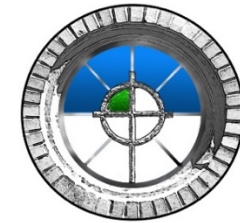
9:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

### Upcoming

May 28 – Bible Presentation in Worship  
May 29 – Memorial Day  
June 1 – Circle 4  
June 13 – Circle 1

## NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Contribute to our hymnbook loan program  
(see 3/26 LimeLight for more information)
- ☐ Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Plan a time to come by the church office to write in Bibles  
for Harper Blanton and Landon Wyatt
- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the Summer 2023 schedule



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

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



Bagong Kussudiardja (Indonesian, 1928–2004), **Ascension**, 1983.

The resurrection is naturally followed by the ascension into heaven. By rising again, Christ began fully to display his glory and virtue, having laid aside the mean and lowly state of mortal life, and the shame of the cross. Yet he truly inaugurated his reign only by his ascension into heaven. The apostle shows this when he teaches that Christ “ascended...that he might fill all things” [Ephesians 4:10]. Despite the apparent contradiction, Paul shows there is a beautiful harmony. For Christ left us in such a way that his presence might be more useful to us - a presence that had been confined in human form as long as he sojourned on earth. Being raised to heaven, he withdrew his bodily presence from our sight, not that he might cease to be with his followers, who are still pilgrims on the earth, but that he might rule both heaven and earth more immediately by his power. His promise to be with us even to the end of the world, he fulfilled by this ascension, for the presence of his majesty has not withdrawn from earth. For a few days the Church had him bodily present.

Now, it holds him by faith, but does not see him with the eyes.

(John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2.XVI.14, adapted)

## STAFF

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