

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

11:00 AM

**Welcome and Announcements**

Renee Wiseman

## GATHERING

**Prelude** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” (Powell) Rita Harmon

**Call to Worship** Renee Wiseman

Those who love Jesus keep his words;

**Those who love Christ will make their home with God.**

Those who know Jesus will know his peace;

**Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.**

Come, follow and love Jesus our Lord, who has come to be among us.

**Come, worship God, who lives among us, loves us, and calls us home.**

**\*Hymn of Praise #267** “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

**\*Call to Confession** Renee Wiseman

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,  
**We confess that we have sinned against you**  
**In thought, word, and deed,**  
**By what we have done,**  
**And by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you**  
**with our whole heart and mind and strength.**  
**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,**  
**Help us ament what we are,**  
**And direct what we shall be,**  
**That we may delight in your will**  
**and walk in your ways**  
**To the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. 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 Steps** Carrie Wyatt

**Anthem** “Sing Joyful Praise!” (Lightfoot) Chancel Choir

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to celebrate this day in song!

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to Thee, O, sing joyful praise to the Lord this day!

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to celebrate this day in song!

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to Thee, O, sing joyful praise to the Lord this day!

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee,  
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee,  
Because he trusts in Thee.

Trust in the Lord forever, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!

Trust in the Lord forever! Arise and sing! Arise and sing! Sing for joy!

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to celebrate this day in song!

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to Thee, O, sing joyful praise to the Lord this day!

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;

Sing joyful praise, our voices raise to Thee, O, sing joyful praise to the Lord this day.

Sing joyful praise to the Lord!

**First Reading** Genesis 16:1-11 & Isaiah 43:1 (Pew Bible OT p.12 & 672)

**Second Reading** Colossians 2:1-6 (Pew Bible NT p.200)

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon from the Pulpit** “Words Matter” Rev. Steven Rhodes

## 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.**

**\*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** “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” (Phillips) 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 #703** “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

**\*Charge and Benediction** Rev. Steven Rhodes

**\*Postlude** “Praise Him! Praise Him!” (Mary McDonald) 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 and in honor of Dr. David Thompson’s retirement from Limestone University by his 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 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

**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>.

**Yoga**

STARTING TODAY! Our own Mimi McCully, certified yoga instructor, will begin leading free yoga classes in the Family Life Center from 4-5 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. Bring a mat, wear clothes that will let you move, and invite a friend!

**Congregational Dinner**

Join us and bring a friend (or 2) for a Congregational steak dinner on Friday, May 12 @ 6:00pm. The menu will include steak, baked potato & salad. But please don’t forget to sign up by calling/emailing the church office by Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> so we know how many steaks to prepare!

**Circle 1**

Circle 1 will meet at 10:30 AM, Tuesday, May 9th. Lynn Miller is hosting the meeting at her home. Mimi McCully will lead the Bible study, Lesson 8: "Sabbath and Justice."

**Outreach Committee Meeting**

If it’s not too late, please put that Outreach Committee is meeting Tuesday May 9 at 7 PM in the Family Life Center. Anyone interested in learning more about the Outreach program is welcome!

**New Church Directory**

If you have not returned your Directory form, please do so ASAP. You can use the Google form that was emailed to you, or a hard copy available in the FLC.

### Today we welcome Rev. Steven Rhodes

Rev. Steven H. Rhodes BSW,MSW,MDiv, Honorable Retired. Graduate of Florida State University and Columbia Theological Seminary. My wife Judy and I recently moved back to Spartanburg. We have 4 children, 8 grandchildren. I have been ordained since 1982 and served in four states. This is my second time being in Foothills Presbytery, having served here previously from 2000 to 2017.

### THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**May 10, 1508:** At the insistence of Pope Julius II, Michelangelo begins work on the Sistine Chapel ceiling. He writes this note to himself, "On this day, May 10, 1508, I Michelangelo, sculptor, have received on account from our Holy Lord Pope Julius II five hundred papal ducats toward the painting of the ceiling of the papal Sistine Chapel, on which I am beginning work today."

**May 11, 1926:** J. R. R.Tolkien and C. S. Lewis have their first long chat. Five years afterward, Lewis converts to Christ. Later the two men, with a group of friends and colleagues, will become members of the Inklings, a predominantly Christian group at Oxford.

**May 12, 563:** Columba and twelve companions, sailing in a currach of wickerwork covered with hides, land at Iona on the eve of Pentecost. Iona will become a center of evangelization for Scotland and Northern England.

### 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:

Melinda Hart  
Lucy Benson  
Janet Carroll

### 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, May 7

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  
4:00 PM Yoga class – FLC

### Monday, May 8

5:30 PM Girl Scouts

### Tuesday, May 9

10:30 AM Circle 1 – Lynn's house  
Deadline to sign up for Steak Dinner

### Wednesday, May 10

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Friday, May 12

6:00 PM Congregational Steak Dinner – FLC

### Saturday, May 13

9:00 AM – noon – Session Retreat

### Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day

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 14 – Mother's Day  
May 21 – Graduate Recognition  
May 21 – Handbells playing during worship  
May 21 – Session Meeting

## 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 steak dinner



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

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



QR code for electronic contributions:

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Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aging find consolation and the young be inspired; here may the young find consolation and the aging be inspired. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.