

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude                  “It Is Well” (Wolaver)                  David Thompson

Call to Worship                  Renee Wiseman

Our hope is in God alone.

God the Creator, who redeems us and sustains us.

God gives all good things --

The things we see and the things we can’t see.

Our hope is in God alone.

God the Redeemer, who saves us and teaches us.

God died for our sins

and prepares a place for us.

Our hope is in God alone.

God the Sustainer, who guides us and strengthens us.

God moves us to sing,

“Hallelujah! Hallelujah!”

Our hope is in God alone.

\*Hymn of Praise #33                  “Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show”

\*Call to Confession                  Renee Wiseman

\*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open

to the rhythms of life you offer to us.

We let ourselves be distracted from your way

and allow ourselves to wander off on our own way.

Too often the sights and sounds of the world confuse us.

We have led ourselves and others to paths

that are not aligned with your loving pace and direction.

Forgive us, we pray, and teach us

to pay attention to you with all of our senses.

When we have agreed to follow you,

help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead.

Clean our hearts, purify our hands, and steady our feet

that we might know and share your blessings. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to

the old life, and 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                  “With Songs Of Rejoicing” (Bach)                  Chancel Choir

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;

For He has done marvelous, marvelous things! Break forth into joy.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;

For He has done marvelous, marvelous things! Break forth into joy.

His praises the lyre and the trumpet employ.

The floods clap their hands, and the hills sing for joy.

The seas with their roaring speak praise to His name.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;

For He has done marvelous, marvelous things! Break forth into joy.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord.

Come make a joyful noise. Sing to the Lord Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

First Reading                  Genesis 12:1-9 (Pew Bible OT p.10)

Second Reading                  Romans 4:13-25 (Pew Bible NT p.155)

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit                  “Abram’s Answer”                  Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Affirmation of Faith                  (based on A Declaration of Faith, 3.1)

To the world in its rebellion and alienation

God promised blessing and restoration.

The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants

as bearers of that promise for all peoples.

They had done nothing more than others

to deserve the Lord’s favor,

but God loved them and made them his own.

We acknowledge God’s freedom and grace.

Though we are unworthy,

we are made the Lord’s own in Christ.

God has chosen us as servants for the sake of the world.

We are destined to be God’s daughters and sons.

God has given us love and life --

our calling is to worship and honor God.

\*Affirmation of Faith Response #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,

whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

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

Service of Giving

Offertory                  “Deep River” (arr. Burleigh)                  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 #641                  “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

\*Charge and Benediction                  Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

\*Postlude                  “Recessional on Lobe den Herren” (Edwards)                  Rita Harmon

~~~~~

\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The floral arrangement in worship today is given for the glory of God.

Please remember in prayer:

Margaret Moeller; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Peggy Wyatt; Buck Jolley; Emma June; DeAnna Tock, Justina Eddy; the family of Sandra Woodlief; Alex Copeland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:

Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8.

About the Lectionary Readings This Summer

We are currently in Year A of the three-year lectionary cycle. On the Sundays after Pentecost, the gospel readings move through the gospel of Matthew. Old Testament lessons are a semicontinuous series of readings that focus on the major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the promised land. Most sermons this summer will be focusing on the texts from Hebrew scripture. We begin this Sunday (June 11) with the call of Abram.

Sunday School Offering

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

Circle 1

Will meet Tuesday morning, June 13th at **10:45 AM** in the church parlor. The Bible study will be the concluding lesson in *Celebrating Sabbath: "Sabbath and Community."* Members will enjoy lunch together in the Family Life Center after the Bible study. All are welcome. To join the study and fellowship on the 13th, contact Hazel Hubbard by Monday, May 12.

Ready! Set! Go!

On Wednesday, June 14, we will be going to the Peach Center.

Picturing God

Join us on Tuesday, June 13, as we continue exploring ways that God is pictured in scripture. Our medium is collage -- no drawing experience necessary. 1:00 - 2:30 in the Family Life Center.

Summer Reading

If you have been reading Katherine Paterson's *Stories of My Life* and want to have conversation around it, please see Lynn.

Wednesday Fellowship

We will gather at the Cowpens Coffee & Creamery for a Dutch-treat Ice Cream Social this Wednesday, June 14 @ 6:30 PM.

Cherokee Pregnancy Center Fundraiser

Pick up your bottle for the Cherokee Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Fundraiser in the hallway outside the sanctuary. The fundraiser continues through Father's Day.

**Hallelujah!**  
In both our Call to Worship and our final hymn this morning, we will sing/say the word Hallelujah! If you were part of the "10 Words" study last fall, you may remember that we looked at the meaning and use of that word. In case you don't remember all of that, here are a few highlights.

- *Hallelujah* is used only four times in the Bible: Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6.
- The word is really a sentence. *Hallel* means praise. *U* is a plural imperative. *Yah* is a shortened form of Yahweh, the name of God. Put together, Hallelujah means "Y'all praise God!"

**THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY**

June 11, 1294: Death of Roger Bacon, a Franciscan monk and one of the most original thinkers of the Middle Ages. He had predicted aircraft, submarines, suspension bridges, engines, and more.

June 12, 1775; Less than two months after a skirmish at Concord, MA, between American militia and British soldiers, the Continental Congress issues a call for all citizens to fast and pray and confess their sins that the Lord God might bless the land.

June 13, 1525: German reformer, Martin Luther, formerly a monk, marries Katherine von Bora, formerly a nun, who had escaped from her convent in a fish barrel.

June 14, 370: Basil becomes Bishop of Caesarea where he becomes famous for innovations such as hostels, hospitals, and soup kitchens.

**STAFF**  
Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net  
Rita Harmon, Organist, mteach1@aol.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, June 11**  
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  
**Monday, June 12**  
1:00 PM Picturing God - FLC  
**Tuesday, June 13**  
10:30 AM Circle 1  
Summer Reading – K. Paterson  
**Wednesday, June 14**  
1:00 PM – Ready! Set! Go! – Peach Center  
6:30 PM – Ice Cream Social – Cowpens Coffee & Creamery  
**Sunday, June 18 – Father’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**  
June 21 – Ready! Set! Go! Food Share  
June 24 – Soup Kitchen  
Save the Date: Vacation Bible School, July 16-20  
Save the Date: Create in Me: A New Spirit, July 24-28

**NEXT STEPS**

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the Summer Calendar
- ☐ Check out Cowpens Creamer menu: [cowpenscoffeeandcreamery.com/menu](http://cowpenscoffeeandcreamery.com/menu)
- ☐ Pick up a VBS registration form on bulletin board across from the chapel
- ☐ Sign up to be a VBS volunteer on the bulletin board across from the chapel
- ☐ Pick up a Cherokee Pregnancy Center Bottle of Joy



QR code for electronic contributions:

CONNECT WITH US: **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



"So what would have been the biggest change from the world Abram left to the world where he was going?"  
"The biggest difference would be leaving an area that was the core of civilization to a place that was just emerging. It was not the heart of everything."  
"But because he went, it became the heart of everything."  
"And that's the point," Avner said. "Abraham began a new cycle...Do you want to know the real difference between here and the Promised Land?... There are no rivers. There are no floods. Canaan was settled. It had some rain. But the water wasn't predictable, or plentiful. In saying *lech lecha*" -- go forth -- "God changed the history of the world. God gave Abraham the power of fertility, the power to create a great nation, which up to now had belonged only to the rivers: the Tigris, the Euphrates, the Nile. From now on, people--not water--would control the world. People who believed in God."  
--conversation between Bruce Feiler and Avner Goren, *Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses*, p. 33-34.