

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 202311:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude“Faith of Our Fathers” (Young)Rita Harmon

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 116) Johnny Wyatt
The Lord has heard our voices and our prayers.
We will call on the Lord as long as we live.
What shall we return to the Lord for the abundance God has given us?
We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
O Lord, I am your servant.
O Lord, I am your servant.
God has loosened the things that would bind us.
Therefore, we offer thanksgiving in the presence of all God’s people.
Praise the Lord!
We will praise the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise #611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*Call to Confession Johnny Wyatt

*Prayer of Confession
Faithful God, you invited Abraham to join you on a journey with a destination you did not disclose.
Forgive us, we pray, when we prefer our own knowledge to trusting you for what we cannot see.
You promised Abraham and Sarah that you would turn what was empty into something filled with life.
Forgive us, we pray, when we don’t trust your promises and would rather live in emptiness than in your abundant life.
You sent your messengers to share your good news with Abraham and Sarah.
Forgive us, we pray, when we ignore the people you send to us and don’t believe your good news.
Holy God, you gave Abraham a new name.
Give us new hearts, we pray. Turn our hearts to your will and our lives to your call. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon
If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
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 StepsCarrie Wyatt

Anthem “Let The People Praise Thee” (Williams) Chancel Choir
God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of Thy face:
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine, Fill Thy Church with light divine;
And Thy saving health extend Unto earth’s remotest end.
Let the people praise Thee, Lord; Be by all that live adored:
Let the nations shout and sing, Glory to their Saviour King;
At Thy feet their tributes pay, And Thy holy will obey.
Let the people praise Thee, Lord: Earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to us His blessing give, We to God devoted live;
All below, and all above, One in joy, and light and love.
God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of Thy face:
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine, Fill Thy church with light divine;
And Thy saving health extend Unto earth’s remotest end.

First Reading Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-6 (Pew Bible OT p.)
Second Reading Romans 5:1-8 (Pew Bible NT p.)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit “Genesis 18:16-20:18” Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (The Nicene Creed)
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*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 “Whiter Than Snow” (Berry) 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 #69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” (“Here I Am, Lord”)

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude “Come Let Us Join Our Friends Above” (Broughton) 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.

Please remember in prayer:  
John Paul Hyché; 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 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.

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

Ready! Set! Go!  
On Wednesday, June 21, we will be helping at Food Share.

Soup Kitchen  
We still need volunteers to help with Soup Kitchen this Saturday, June 24.  
Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or see Mimi McCully.

- Church News
1. The office & main building of the church will be closed on Wednesday & Thursday, June 28-29 for asbestos abatement. For safety reasons, no one can be in the building during this time. However, the FLC will not be impacted by this process.
  2. Beginning this week, all announcements/information for the bulletin and/or newsletter must be emailed or turned into the church office before 8am on Thursdays to be included.

Cherokee Pregnancy Center Fundraiser

It's time to turn in your bottle for the Cherokee Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Fundraiser in the hallway outside the sanctuary. If you have not already gotten a bottle, you can grab one today & place a check or cash inside. All money raised goes to the Cherokee Pregnancy Center to help mothers throughout their pregnancy, and caring for their newborns.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**June 29, 325:** In A.D. 312, Constantine won control of the Roman Empire and elevated Christianity to favored status in the empire. “One God, one Lord, one faith, one church, one empire, one emperor” became his motto. The new emperor soon discovered that “one faith and one church” were fractured by theological disputes, especially conflicting understandings of the nature of Christ. Arius, a priest of the church in Alexandria, asserted that Christ was created by God and therefore was similar to God but not of the same “substance” as God. Arius was opposed by the bishop, Alexander, and his associate and successor, Athanasius. They affirmed that the divinity of Christ, the Son, is of the same substance as the divinity of God, the Father. To say anything else, they argued, was to open the possibility of polytheism, and to imply that knowledge of God in Christ was not final knowledge of God. To counter a widening rift within the church, Constantine convened a council in Nicaea in A.D. 325. A creed reflecting the position of Alexander and Athanasius was written and signed by a majority of the bishops on or around June 19. Nevertheless, the two parties continued to battle each other. In 381, a second council met in Constantinople. It adopted a revised and expanded form of the A.D. 325 creed, now known as the Nicene Creed.

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:

Jenni Lail  
Hank Jolly

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 18**  
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  
4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

**Wednesday, June 21**  
1:00 PM – Ready! Set! Go! – Food Share  
6:30 PM –

**Saturday, June 24**  
10:30 AM – Soup Kitchen

**Sunday, June 25**  
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 26 – Picturing God  
June 27 – Summer Reading  
June 28 – Ready! Set! Go! – Palmetto Patriots Home  
June 28-29 – Church Office & Main Building Closed  
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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Turn in your Cherokee Pregnancy Center Bottle of Joy
- ☐ Sign up to volunteer for Soup Kitchen



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



Andrei Rublev. Icon of The Holy Trinity. 1425-1427. Tempera on panel. Moscow: Tretyakov Gallery.

From within this holy circle, this house of love, the mystery of God is revealed to us. It is the mystery of the three angels who appeared at the Oak of Mamre, who ate the meal Sarah and Abraham generously offered to them and who announced the unexpected birth of Isaac... This angelic appearance is the prefiguration of the divine mission by which God sends us the only Son. The tree of Mamre becomes the tree of life, the house of Abraham becomes the dwelling place of God-with-us and the mountain becomes the spiritual heights of prayer and contemplation. The lamb that Abraham offered to the angels becomes the sacrificial lamb...at the center of the icon. The hands of the Father, Son, and Spirit reveal in different ways its significance. The Son, in the center, points to it with two fingers, indicating his mission to become the sacrificial lamb. The Father, on the left, encourages the Son with a blessing gesture. And the Spirit, who holds the same staff of authority as the Father and the Son, signifies by pointing to the rectangular opening in the front of the altar that this divine sacrifice is a sacrifice for the salvation of the world.

-Henri Nouwen, *Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with loons*, p.22-23.