

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude “God Of Our Fathers” (National Hymn) Rita Harmon & Jim Simmons

Call to Worship Larry Sossamon

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**Instead God calls us to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but who will be beside us every step of the way.

***Hymn of Praise #331** “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

***Call to Confession** Larry Sossamon

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving and Sustaining God,

You call us to obedience, to follow you in all things;

to give up the things we cling to,

and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to your purposes.

We confess that we don’t always find this easy to do.

We confess that it is often very difficult

to let go of the things we love.

But we also know that you never ask more of us

than what is possible,

and that you stand ready, at all times, to sustain us,

and to provide everything we need.

Give us courage to faithfully follow your leading,

even when we cannot see the outcome,

even when the path you call us to seems impossible to comprehend.

Help us to trust you in all things, to let go of everything

That would stand in the way of whole-hearted obedience to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Once we were slaves to sin, living lives that led only to death. But thanks be to God! God has set us free from the power of sin and death, and has offered us eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord! Now we are free to choose life, and to use our lives to bring honour and glory to God! 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 Chancel Choir

“O God, Show Mercy to Us” (Hymnal # 341) (Psalm 67/Holst)

First Reading Genesis 22:1-14 (Pew Bible OT p.17)

Second Reading Romans 6:16-18 (Pew Bible NT p.156)

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit “Twenty Chapters In” Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (A Declaration of Faith, 10.4)

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

God has already demonstrated his judging and saving work.

We are warned that rejecting God’s love

and not caring for others whom God loves

results in eternal separation from him and them.

Yet we are also told that God loves the whole world

and wills the salvation of all humankind in Christ.

We live in tension between God’s warnings and promises.

Knowing the righteous judgment of God in Christ,

we urge all people to be reconciled to God,

not exempting ourselves from the warnings.

Constrained by God’s love in Christ,

we have good hope for all people,

not exempting the most unlikely from the promises.

Judgment belongs to God and not to us.

We are sure that God’s future for every person

will be both merciful and just.

***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 “America, the Beautiful” (Larson) 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 #67** “My Song Forever Shall Record/Psalm 89”

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

***Postlude** “Improvisation on Star-Spangled Banner” (Callahan) 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 for a year of ministry with the Limestone Presbyterian Church family.

**Please remember in prayer:**

Sara Setzer; John Paul Hyche; 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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

**Sunday School Offering**

**Ready! Set! Go!**

On Wednesday, July 5 we will be doing a Bake & Take here in the FLC.

**Pot Luck Lunch**

Please join us immediately after worship Today for a potluck lunch in the Family Life Center celebrating the first year of ministry together for Limestone Presbyterian Church and Lynn Miller. Happy Anniversary to us!

**T-Shirts**

We are taking orders for LPC t-shirts. Order forms are available wherever you find bulletins (narthex, hallway) and in the FLC. The order form includes a mock-up of the shirt. We will take orders until Sunday, June 9. You may turn in your order form with payment to the church office or Becky Wheeler. You may also put it in the offering plate.

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**July 2, 1505:** Terrified by a thunderstorm, Martin Luther vows to become a monk and soon afterward enters the order of Augustinian Hermits.

**July 4, 1832:** The national hymn "America" is first sung in public at a children's celebration of Independence Day, at the Park St. Church, Boston. The words had been written that February by the Rev. Samuel F. Smith and are sung to the tune of "God Save the King."

**July 8, 1741:** Jonathan Edwards preaches the sermon known as "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." It is the only one of his works that most people know, though he wrote extensively about God and beauty. Edwards is the maternal grandmother of Aaron Burr.

### 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:

Leah Miller

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, July 2

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  
12:00 PM Pot Luck Lunch – FLC  
4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

### Monday, July 3

1:00 PM Picturing God – FLC

### Tuesday, July 4

Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, July 5

1:00 PM – Ready! Set! Go! – Bake & Take

### Sunday, July 9

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

July 12 – Ready! Set! Go! – Bake & Take  
July 17 – Picturing God  
Save the Date: Vacation Bible School, July 16-20  
Save the Date: Create in Me: A New Spirit, July 24-28

## NEXT STEPS

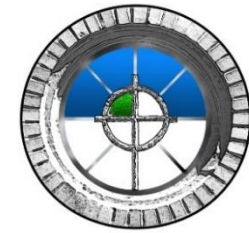
- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- Pick up a hard copy of the Summer Calendar
- Pick up a VBS registration form on bulletin board across from the chapel
- Sign up to be a VBS volunteer on the bulletin board across from the chapel

## MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

| Class of 2023         | Class of 2024 | Class of 2025 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Larry Sossamon        | Teresa Spires | Nancy McElroy |
| Bill Wheeler          | Dean Wyatt    | Mimi McCully  |
| Renee Wiseman (clerk) | Buck Jolley   |               |

## STAFF

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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



'Ram in a Thicket', about 2600–2400 B.C.E., Sumerian, found in tomb PG 1237, Royal Tombs of Ur, southern Iraq, gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shell, bitumen, copper alloy, and red limestone, 45.7 x 30.48 cm (© The Trustees of the British Museum)



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To sacrifice something is to make it holy by giving it away for love. --  
Frederick Buechner