

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "Marvelous Grace" (Berry) David Thompson

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 139) Janet Carroll

God, you search me and know me.

You search out my path and my lying down

And are acquainted with all my ways.

God, you search me and know me.

Before I sit, you know when I will rise.

God, you search me and know me.

Before I speak, you know what I will say.

God, you search me and know me,

in my joy and despair, in my breathing in and breathing out.

God, you search me and know me.

Your knowledge is too deep to reach,

too vast to comprehend.

There is no place I can go that is away from your spirit.

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

God, you search me and know me.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

***Hymn of Praise #41** "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

***Call to Confession** Janet Carroll

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, you know everything about us.

Every word we speak,

every thought we think,

every deed we do—

You know them all, even before we do.

So take a good look at us now.

Look deep into each heart and soul.

Point out the things that displease you,

the thoughts and actions we need to change.

Show us how to live as you would want us to live.

And hear the sins we now name silently...

***Assurance of Pardon**

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

"Be Strong in the Lord" (Fettke)

Chancel Choir

Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage;
your defender is he who is always the same.

Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending; vict'ry is sure when you call on his name.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and be of good courage for he is your guide.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Put on the armor the Lord has provided; place your defense in his unfailing care.

Trust him for he will be with you in battle, lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and be of good courage for he is your guide.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage;

your mighty commander will vanquish the foe.

Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always his; He will protect you wherever you go.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and be of good courage for he is your guide.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours,
be strong!

First Reading Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (Pew Bible NT p.14)

Second Reading Genesis 28:10-19a (Pew Bible OT p.25)

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Night Prayer" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A. 1)

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,

but belong—

body and soul, in life and in death—

to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,

and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way

that not a hair can fall from my head

without the will of God in heaven;

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,

Christ, by his Holy Spirit,

assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready

from now on to live for him.

***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 "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" (arr. Potter) 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 #839** "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

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

***Postlude** "A Charge to Keep I Have" (Edwards) 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 honor of Eli's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday by the Wheeler Family.

**Please remember in prayer:**

Becky Wheeler; Tacara Long; Peggy Miller; Harold Wood; Sara Setzer; John

Paul Hyche; Margaret Moeller; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Peggy Wyatt; Buck

Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Next week's lectionary readings are:**

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

**Giving Statements**

Giving statements for the first half of 2023 have been sent out by e-mail. If you

didn't receive one and would like a copy, please contact Jim Watts or the

church office.

**Monthly Giving Opportunity**

July's giving opportunity is for Heifer International. You may put your gifts in

the offering plate or in the giving box at the front of the sanctuary.

**Please remember:** 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.

### About the bulletin cover

The west facade of Bath Abbey includes two ladders, one on either side of the great stained glass window. On the ladders are sculpted angels. Some are crawling up the ladder to heaven, others are crawling down the ladder (head first!), bringing God's messages to earth. This completely unique design was supposedly inspired by the Bishop who saw the ladder in a dream. He believed the location was still a holy place and should have a new cathedral rather than the decaying building currently on the site. Bath Abbey was one of the last medieval cathedrals built in England. Learn more about Bath Abbey at <https://www.bathabbey.org/>

### THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**July 24, 1955:** George W. Hensley, founder of a Pentecostal snake handling movement in Appalachia is bitten, refuses treatment as with previous bites, and dies the next day, aged seventy-five. Snake handlers believe that Mark 16:17-18 is to be embraced literally by all Christians.

**July 28, 1540:** Protestant reformer Thomas Cromwell, for many years the chief advisor to King Henry VIII, is executed at Tower Hill after refusing to support Henry's divorce against Anne of Cleves. The charge is "betraying the crown."

**July 29, 1974:** Fifteen hundred people crowd the sanctuary of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia to witness the illegitimate "ordination" of eleven women in defiance of Episcopalian policy. However, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church will approve the ordination of women a few years later.

### 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:

Barbara Cope  
Jill Thomson  
Cody Sossamon  
Harper Blanton  
Nat Benson

### 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

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, [limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net](mailto:limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net)  
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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, July 23

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, July 24-28

Create in me a new Spirit: Art & the Psalms

### Sunday, July 30

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 31 – Picturing God  
Aug 2 – Ready! Set! Go! – Pool Party  
Aug 6 – Yoga  
Aug 7 – Picturing God  
Aug 6 – Blessing of the Backpacks in worship  
Aug 13 – Start of LPC Birthday Week and kickoff of "Intentionally Intergenerational" grant. Catered lunch after worship followed by interactive workshop on Faith and Human Development with Dr. Rebecca Davis  
Aug 16 – Wednesday Night Supper program: Getting Ready for Worship, week 1  
Aug 18 – Happy Birthday, Limestone Presbyterian Church!

### NEXT STEPS

Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight

QR code for electronic contributions:

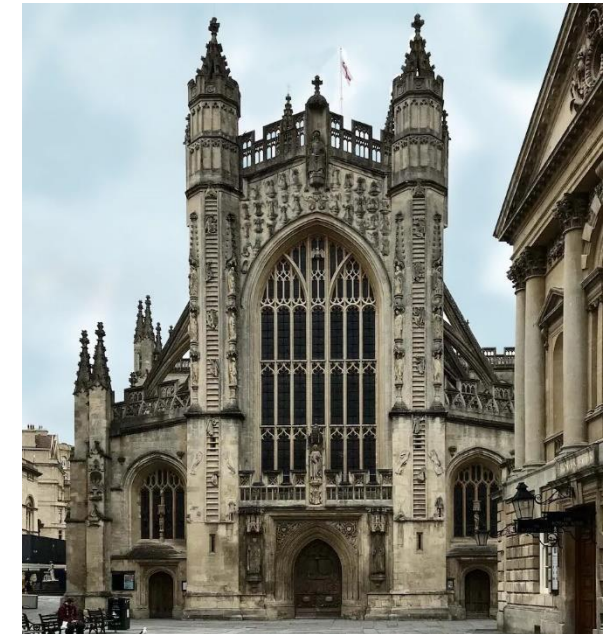


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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Facade of Bath Abbey. Bath, England. Begun 1499.

One of the tales we often tell our children is of Jack, who climbed a beanstalk that reached up to the heavens. Jack and Jacob have things in common besides a structure that connected earth and sky. Both are tricksters -- Jacob securing the birthright and blessing by less-than-noble means and Jack tricking the Giant out of his treasure. However, Jack had to chop down the beanstalk to free himself from the giant in the sky. Jacob left his encounter with the promise that God would be with him always. What other similarities and differences do you see between the two stories?