

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 202311:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude“He Leadeth Me” (Payne)Rita Harmon

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 105)Larry Sossamon
O give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name,
Make known God’s deeds among the peoples.
Sing to God, sing praises to God;
Tell of all God’s wonderful works.
Glory in God’s holy name;
Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and God’s strength;
Seek God’s presence continually.
Let us worship the God of Abraham and Isaac.
Let us worship the God of Jacob.

*Hymn of Praise #664“Morning Has Broken”

*Call to ConfessionLarry Sossamon

*Prayer of Confession
Faithful God, you watch over us at all times.
We confess that we have allowed
a host of worries and frustrations
to crowd out your word for us.
Too often we seek you in the spectacular and otherworldly.
May we see the presence of your kingdom
in the everyday, ordinary things of life:
in mustard seeds, yeast,
treasures in fields, and fish gathered in nets.
As you give us peace and your transforming love,
We pray you will also forgive all those times
when we have been less than faithful disciples.
Visit us again with your healing powers.
Restore our hope and courage and joy
for all the times ahead.
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 StepsCarrie Wyatt

Anthem“God’s Peace” (arr. Adams)Chancel Choir
Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God’s peace;
from our vain ambition’s worry, come to Christ and find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life’s demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God’s grace, God’s grace.
In the pastures of God’s goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God’s mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God’s presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God’s anointing into service we are led, we are led.
Come, then children, with your burdens, life’s confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus, take instead his kingdom’s reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them, he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.
Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God’s peace.

First ReadingMatthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (Pew Bible NT p.14)

Second ReadingGenesis 29:15-28 (Pew Bible OT p.26)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the PulpitRev. Dr. Lynn Miller
“The Kingdom of Heaven is Probably Not Like Waking Up and
Discovering You Are Married to the Wrong Person”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (A Declaration of Faith, 9.5)
Jesus announced the coming of God’s kingdom
and its hidden presence in the midst of the world’s kingdoms.
He taught his disciples to seek God’s kingdom first.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives in pilgrimage toward God’s kingdom.
Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey
all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.
No more than Christ are we spared
the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.
We are in the world, but not of the world.
Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people
do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,
but in the coming and hidden presence of God’s kingdom.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.

*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“Softly And Tenderly” (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 #175“Seek Ye First”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“Praise Him! Praise Him!” (McDonald)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:  
Trish Tong; Barbara Grinter; Matt Horne; Becky Wheeler; Tacara Long; Peggy  
Miller; Harold Wood; Sara Setzer; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina  
Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:  
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

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.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**August 1, 177:** The Christians of Lyons, France, were brought before a mob in the amphitheater. The torturers placed some Christians in stocks; others they seated on a red hot-iron grill. After torture, they took several to the amphitheater for beasts to devour as the crowd watched. Among those was a defiant slave girl, Blandina, whom they suspended on a stake and exposed to the wild beasts. Because she appeared to be hanging on a cross like Christ, she inspired the others. In her agony, Blandina cried out, “I am a Christian and there is nothing vile done by us.” She died comparing her death to marriage as she went to Christ her bridegroom. The crowd had to admit they had never seen any other woman endure such terrible tortures.

**August 3, 1492:** Friday at dawn the Santa María and its companion caravels commence the historic voyage which will bring Europeans to America. The expedition’s leader, Christopher Columbus, has both missionary and trade ambitions.

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:

- Buck Jolley
- Taylor Miller
- James Hart
- Gia Lemmonds

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  
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Sharon Thompson, Music Director, Mozart1121@aol.com  
Carrie Wyatt, Director Children & Youth Ministries, carewyatt@gmail.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- 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
- Monday, July 31**  
1:00 PM Picturing God – FLC
- Wednesday, August 2**  
1:00 PM Ready! Set! Go!
- Sunday, August 6**  
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

- Upcoming**  
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!

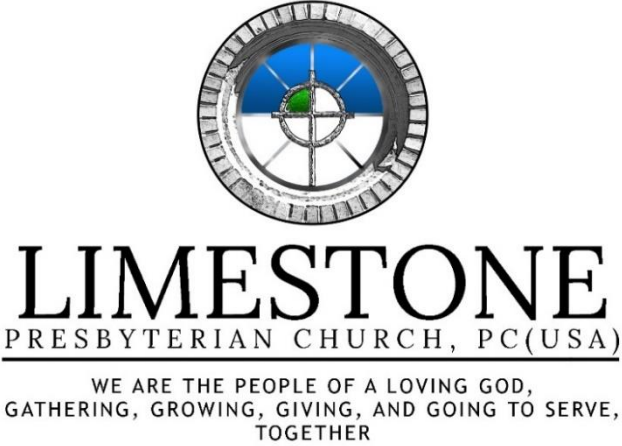
NEXT STEPS

☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight

QR code for electronic contributions:



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Abel Pann (1883–1963). **Rachel and Leah**. Pastel on paper.

Rachel and Leah appear as symbols in "Purgatory," the middle poem of *The Divine Comedy* by Italian poet Dante Alighieri. Young and beautiful, Leah gathers flowers to make into a garland, and she tells how her sister Rachel never stops observing her reflection in a mirror. In their roles of "doing and seeing," Leah and Rachel were conventionally viewed as symbols, respectively, of the active and contemplative lives. Dante favored contemplation over action. He wrote, *We must know, however, that we may have two kinds of happiness in this life, according to two different paths, one good and the other best, which lead us there. One is the active life, the other the contemplative life, and although by the active, as has been said, we may arrive at a happiness that is good, the other leads us to the best happiness and state of bliss.*