

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023 11:00 AM

>Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "Praise for the Morning" (Lani Smith) Rita Harmon

Call to Worship (Psalm 133; Hebrews 12:1-2) Renee Wiseman
We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humanity.
The world belongs to God, the earth and all its people.
How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
Then let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

*Hymn of Praise #610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*Call to Confession Renee Wiseman

***Prayer of Confession**
God of mercy, we know that you show no favoritism
but accept those who fear you and do what is right.
The truth is, though,
sometimes it is public opinion that we fear,
and doing right is not always so simple.
We have acted for reasons other than love of you
and love of neighbor.
Forgive us, we pray.
For the plans we have made without regard for you,
for the harm we have caused our sisters and brothers,
for admitting our weakness and sin
only when it is our only choice, we are sorry.
Forgive us, we pray,
and renew in us the desire
to love for our neighbor what we love for ourselves.
And forgive, we pray, 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

Hymn #687 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

First Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (Pew Bible NT p.160)

Second Reading Genesis 45:1-15 (Pew Bible OT p.42)
The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Plot, Plot, Plod" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A 27-28)
27 Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?
A. **The almighty and ever present power of God**
by which God upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought,
fruitful and lean years, food and drink,
health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—
all things, in fact, come to us
not by chance but by God's hand.
28 Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?
A. **We can be patient when things go against us,**
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God
that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love.
For all creatures are so completely in God's hand
that without God's will
they can neither move nor be moved.

***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 "Jesus Loves Me" (Bradbury) 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 #306** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

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

***Postlude** "Trumpet Fanfare" (Wetzler) 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 memory of Jane Thompson by her family.

**Please remember in prayer:**  
Don Berry; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Barbara Grinter; Matt Horne; Becky Wheeler; Tacara Long; Sara Setzer; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

**A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

**Next week's lectionary readings are:**  
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

**Congregational Photo**  
Don't forget that immediately following worship we will take a congregational photo. Everyone should stay for the photo. If you are not wearing an LPC t-shirt, move to the middle of the sanctuary -- in the center aisle and into the pews. If you are wearing an LPC t-shirt, gather around the outside of the center group.

**Yoga**  
Join us for Yoga in the Family Life Center today at 4:00 PM.

**Soup Kitchen**  
Sign up today to help prepare food and/or serve at the Soup Kitchen this Saturday, August 26.

**Wednesday Night supper**  
It's an exciting time -- many of the children who have been leaving worship after the Sermon on the Steps have reached the age where they will be staying in worship with us. Over the next three Wednesday nights we'll continue to prepare them (and all the adults!) to more fully participate in worship. Please join us as we explore worship all together!

**Worship Buddy**  
Are you willing to have one of our young people sitting with you in worship each week? If you are willing to be a worship buddy -- have them sit with you, help them navigate the service, line out hymns, etc. -- please let Carrie Wyatt know.

**We're Trying This:** Beginning Sunday, September 10, our worship time will change to 10:30 a.m. We are doing a 6-week experiment in response to changing patterns of attendance in worship and in our Christian Ed programming. Once we get 4 weeks or so under our belt, we'll start having conversations and analyzing, assessing, and making further decisions. We know that patterns of churchgoing have been impacted greatly by COVID and other factors, please be in prayer for the Session and the congregation as we ask questions and make decisions that will strengthen the church.

**Monthly Giving Opportunity**  
August's giving opportunity is school supplies for Lincoln & Goucher Charter Schools. 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 22, 565:** Celtic missionary and abbot Columba confronts a monster at Loch Ness, becoming the first recorded observer of the creature. "At the voice of the saint, the monster was terrified," writes his biographer, "and fled more quickly than if it had been pulled back with ropes."

### August 23-25, 1572: The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre

On August 23, Catherine de Medici, mother of King Charles IX of France, plotted the assassination of Admiral Gaspard de Coligny\*, leader of the Huguenots (French Protestant Calvinists) as part of France's ongoing religious wars. Coligny survived the attempt, but on August 24 (St. Bartholomew's Day), the King gave an order that *all* Huguenot leaders should be killed. Coligny was stabbed, his body thrown from a window, mutilated, and ultimately decapitated. Catholic mobs and troops throughout Paris massacred as many as 70,000 Protestants over the next two days. Though Spain and the Vatican approved, most European nations were appalled. France's religious wars continued until 1598 when King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes, granting tolerance to Protestants. Successive kings eroded the rights given in the Edict, and in 1685 Louis XIV revoked the Edict entirely and embarked on active persecution of Protestants. Hundreds of thousands of French Protestants fled France. In April of 1680 the ship *Richmond* arrived in Charleston (SC) with 45 French Protestants (Huguenots) aboard. More refugees followed, and in 1687, a Huguenot church was built on what is now the corner of Church St. and Queen St. in downtown Charleston.

\*If you've been to Hilton Head Island, you may have seen Coligny Beach, Coligny Beach Park, and/or Coligny Plaza. They are named for Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, who sponsored two expeditions to what would become South Carolina, in the search for places of safety and freedom for colonies of French Protestants.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, August 20

9:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
 9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
 12:30 PM Session Meeting – Conference Room  
 4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

### Saturday, August 26

10:30 AM Soup Kitchen

### Sunday, August 27

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

Sept 7 – Circle 4  
 Sept 12 – Circle 1

## NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- Make a reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Sign up to bring food and/or serve at the Soup Kitchen

## 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:

Abbie Sossamon Scott  
 Teresa Spires

## 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  
 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

QR code for electronic contributions:

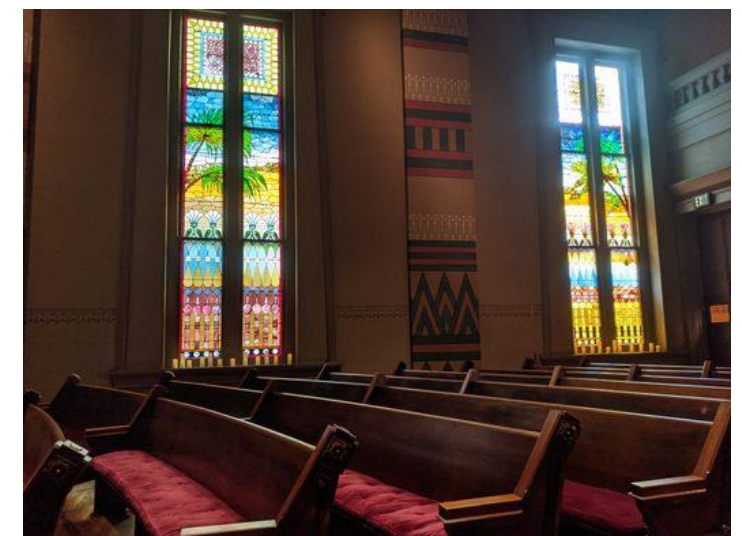
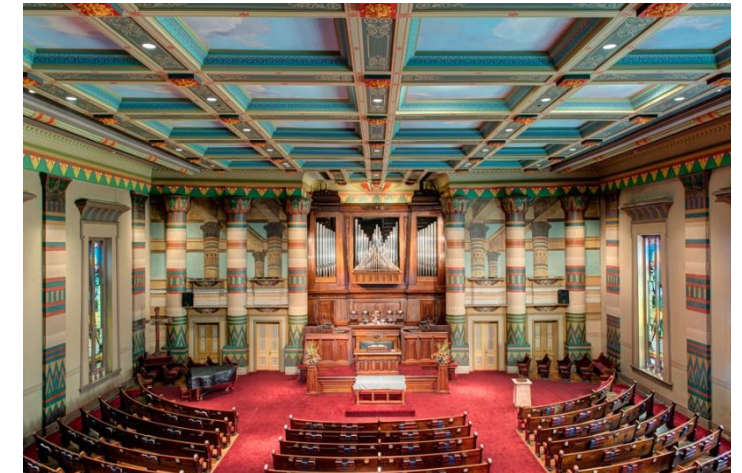


CONNECT WITH US: [limestone-presbyterian.com/](http://limestone-presbyterian.com/) 864-489-6079  
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 109 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET • GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA



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

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



Interior, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN.  
 Egyptian Revival design by William Strickland, 1848.

The Joseph cycle also introduces another theme that would become important in later postexilic literature: the threat of its hero's assimilation into the dominant foreign culture that surrounds him (Daniel 1-6; Ezra 10:2-4; Nehemiah 13:23-27). Joseph is given an Egyptian name and marries the daughter of an Egyptian priest. The names that he gives to his children suggest that he prefers to forget his past. At least outwardly, he becomes indistinguishable from those around him, so much so that he is not recognized by his own brothers. Their arrival in Egypt forces Joseph to confront his past and reclaim his identity as a son of Israel.

--Rhonda Burnette-Bletsch, *Studying the Old Testament*, p. 61