

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude

“Prelude and Fugue on Crusader’s Hymn” (Young)

Rita Harmon

Call to Worship

We gather to worship the God of our ancestors –
The God of Abraham and Sarah, of Miriam and Moses.
This is the God who hears our cries and comes to our aid,
Who meets us on holy ground and calls us to follow;
Who invites us to leave our selfish ways behind,
Who invites us to take up our cross
And discover what it means to truly live.
This is our God!
Let us worship together.

Scott Berry

*Hymn of Praise #15

“All Creatures of Our God and King” (Verses 1-4)

*Call to Confession

Scott Berry

*Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God,
your voice calls us,
and marks us as your own.
Yet there are times
when we choose to ignore your voice,
and listen instead to our own needs and desires
and those that challenge our faith
from within the world.
Forgive us for those times;
when we have ignored the needs of others;
when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;
when we allow earthly voices to distract us from your call.
In your forgiveness, O God,
you offer us again the invitation
to know your love.
May we know your love
even as we ask you to 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

“Lead Me, Lord” (Wesley/Young)

Chancel Choir

Lead me Lord, Lead me in thy righteousness; Make thy way plain before my face.
Lead me Lord, Lead me in thy righteousness; Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord, only That makest me dwell in safety,
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

First Reading

Romans 12:9-21 (Pew Bible NT p.162)

Second Reading

Exodus 3:1-15 (Pew Bible OT p.50)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit

"Novelty"

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

(A Declaration of Faith, 5.5)

The early Christians recognized
a diversity of abilities and functions
as gifts of the Spirit.
Some were tempted to use these gifts
to serve their own needs and ambitions,
to form elite groups who looked down on others.
But the gifts were given for the common good,
to build up the community in love
and to equip it for its mission in the world.
We are convinced that the Holy Spirit
still calls people to various offices in the church
and gives diverse gifts to believers.
We are to use them to speak and embody plainly
the gospel of Christ in the world.
No gift is of value without love.

*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

“More Precious Than Silver” (Phillips)

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 #718

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude

“Recession on Praise to the Lord” (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 Rita Harmon’s 36<sup>th</sup> year of faithful service from the congregation who loves her.

Please remember in prayer:

Ben Elliott; Don Berry; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Sara Setzer; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are:

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

Yoga

Join us for Yoga in the Family Life Center today 4:00-5:00 pm.

Wednesday Night supper

So far we've looked at the order of worship, the behind-the-scenes things that make worship happen, and the liturgical year. This Wednesday night we'll conclude our worship review/preparation by looking at the sacraments. We have two (and only two). What are they? Why do we do them the way we do? What do they tell us about ourselves as children of God and as a community? Join us for Baptism Bingo and a few other things.

Next Sunday

Next Sunday we begin our experimental Sunday morning schedule adjustment. Check the calendar on the back of the bulletin and this week’s LimeLight for times and information. We will try this schedule for 6 weeks and then have wide conversations about the process.

New Church Directory

If you have not proofed your picture and information in the draft copy of the new church directory, please do so today. The stapled copy is on the small table in the FLC. Please add in changes as needed or mark "OK" if your information is correct.

Fall Bible Study

Our new study will begin on Monday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the FLC. We'll be "On the Road with Paul," looking at the life and writings of the apostle Paul as well as his impact on the New Testament as we know it. A complete syllabus is available on the church website. An abbreviated schedule is in this week's LimeLight.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

September's giving opportunity is The Peace and Global Witness Offering. You may put your gifts in the offering plate or in the giving box at the front of the sanctuary.

Office News:

- If you have receipts for reimbursement, please fill out the Reimbursement Form in full and attach all receipts to the form with a paperclip. The form can be found on the desk in the office.
- 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

**September 4, 1666:** The Great Fire of London destroys old St. Paul's Cathedral.

**September 4, 1741:** Thomas Gillespie becomes the minister of Carnock in Fife. He becomes a strong advocate of allowing Presbyterian congregations to choose their own ministers, rather than having one appointed by the general assembly.

**September 6, 1620:** The Mayflower sails from Plymouth, England, with Pilgrims aboard.

**September 7, 1785:** William Fox heads up a meeting at Paul's Head Tavern in London that organizes the first Sunday School Society for Britain. Its purposes were: "to prevent vice; to encourage industry and virtue; to dispel darkness and ignorance; to diffuse the light of knowledge; to bring men cheerfully to submit to their stations; to obey the laws of God and their country; to make that useful part of the community, the country poor, happy; to lead them in the pleasant paths of religion here, and to endeavor to prepare them for a glorious eternity." The society soon established rules, paid for textbooks, provided funding, and recruited volunteer teachers. As a result of this effort, close to four thousand Sunday schools were formed, educating thousands of children who otherwise would have had no schooling. Sunday was chosen because it was the one day of the week that working children had free.

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  
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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, September 3**  
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  
**Monday, September 4**  
Labor Day Holiday – Office will be closed  
**Thursday, September 7**  
7:00 PM Circle 4 – Janet Carroll's home  
**Sunday, September 10**  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
11:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
11:45 AM Children's Sunday School

Upcoming  
Sept 11 – Fall Bible Study begins  
Sept 12 – Circle 1  
Sept 24 – Bridal Shower for Emily Morris

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Make a reservation for Wednesday Night Supper

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:

Leighann Moon  
Margaret Moeller  
Jeff Cavender

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



Moses and the Burning Bush. From "In the Beginning." Abraham Rattner (1895–1978). Color lithograph. 1972.

All religions and philosophies which deny the reality or the significance of the material, the fleshly, the earth-bound, are themselves denied. Moses at the burning bush was told to take off his shoes because the ground on which he stood was holy ground (Exodus 3:5), and incarnation means that all ground is holy ground because God not only made it but walked on it, ate and slept and worked and died on it. If we are saved anywhere, we are saved here. And what is saved is not some diaphanous distillation of our bodies and our earth but our bodies and our earth themselves. --Frderick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*