

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023 10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "O Blessed Thoughts" (arr. Potter/Cook) Jim Simmons

Call to Worship (Psalm 103) Scott Berry

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—

God forgives all our iniquity and heals all our diseases,

God redeems our life from the Pit,

and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,

God satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God will not always accuse, nor stay angry forever.

As the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is God's steadfast love.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far does God remove our transgressions from us.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn of Praise #620** "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

***Call to Confession** Scott Berry

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,

You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,

Nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness,

Or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion,

Cleanse us from our sin.

Do not cast us away from your presence,

Or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation

And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

And hear now, we pray, the sins we 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 "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" (Fettke) Chancel Choir

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers;

The moon and stars suspended in space.

What is man, that You are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor,

and have made him a little lower than the angels.

You have put him in charge of all creation:

The beasts of the field, The birds of the air, The fish of the sea.

But what is man, Oh, what is man that You are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name

Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,

And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

First Reading Romans 14:1-12 (Pew Bible NT p.163)

Second Reading Exodus 14:19-31 (Pew Bible OT p.61)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Clogged Wheels" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (A Declaration of Faith, 3.2-3)

When Abraham's descendants were slaves in Egypt,

God heard their cries and prayers.

God remembered the promise

and sent Moses to free them from bondage.

We declare God's steadfast love and sovereign power.

The Lord can be trusted to keep promises.

The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations

to set oppressed and persecuted people free.

Freed slaves became the people of God

when they accepted the Lord's covenant.

God charged them to respond to that rescuing love

by obeying God's commandments.

Their life together was to express

the justice and compassion of their holy God.

Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people,

we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy.

We must keep God's commandments,

not in order to earn or compel the Lord's favor,

but to reflect the character of God

and to be God's grateful and loving people.

***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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" (Kelsey) 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 #450** "Be Thou My Vision"

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

***Postlude** "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus" (arr. Seal) Jim Simmons

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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:**

Larry Irvin; Ben Elliott; Don Berry; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; 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 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

**Nominating Committee**

The Congregational Nominating Committee is now receiving names for consideration to serve on the Session in the Class of 2026. The Nominating Committee will receive all suggestions and prayerfully seek to discern who God is calling to serve the congregation in this capacity. Copies of the form to suggest names to the Nominating Committee are available in the office and wherever you picked up a bulletin. Please place the completed in the offering plate, or place in the mailbox of Teresa Spires or Mimi McCully (located outside the Chapel).

**Fall Bible Study**

Last week we reviewed Paul's biography (Was he an only child? Was he a Pharisee? Was he literate in multiple languages?). This week we will look at the experience that changed his life on the road to Damascus. We meet Monday night at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

**Bridal Shower**

We will host a bridal shower for Emily Morris and Adam Davis on Sunday, September 24, at 2:00 p.m. Links to their registries are 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 17, 1179:** Death of Hildegard of Bingen, known as the "Sibyl of the Rhine." Born in 1098 in Bermersheim, Germany, the youngest of 10 children, Hildegard was known as the Sibyl of the Rhine. Because she was the youngest, her parents gave her as a tithe to the church. She became a nun and later an abbess. She wrote letters but also wrote down her mystical visions, which she also depicted through drawings. In addition to her mysticism, she was also a musician, composer, theologian, playwright, teacher, herbalist, and healer.

**September 18, 1639:** Connecticut observes its first annual thanksgiving day as a colony, following heated debate whether or not setting aside a specific day will prompt people to neglect thanking God on other days.

**September 20, 1565:** Pedro Menendez massacres all the Huguenots at St. Johns River, Florida, "because they were Lutherans and enemies of our holy catholic faith."

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

**Sunday, September 17**

- 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
- 4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

**Monday, September 18**

- 5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room
- 6:30 PM Bible Study - FLC

**Wednesday, September 20**

- 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper - FLC

**Sunday, September 24**

- 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
- 3:00 PM Bridal Shower for Emily Morris

**Upcoming**

- Oct 5 – Circle 4
- Oct 10 – Circle 1
- Oct 28 – Soup Kitchen

**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:

JT Spires  
Layla 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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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Ramesses II in his chariot at the battle of Kadesh (Qadesh). Relief carving from temple complex at Abu Simbel, Egypt. c. 1250 BCE.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward!" --Exodus 14:15

The Torah says that at the edge of the Sea, with Pharaoh's chariots thundering behind and the waters of the Sea thundering before, Moses raised his staff and prayed. Then, says the Torah, God said to Moses, "Tell My people to move forward."

But the Rabbis heard a story in the silence: "Moses," said God, "there are times to pray at length, and there are times to pray briefly. My people are hemmed in, and you stand there piling prayer on prayer? Tell My people to move forward!"

The Rabbis were teaching that prayer should not substitute for action. (Rabbi Arthur O. Waskow and Rabbi Phyllis O. Berman, *Freedom Journeys: The Tale of Exodus and Wilderness across Millennia*, p. 72