

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023 10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (Berry) David Thompson

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 105) Scott Berry

O give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name,  
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to God, sing praises; tell of all God’s wonderful works.**

Remember the wonderful works God has done,  
the miracles, and judgments God uttered.

**God brought Israel out with silver and gold, and led them through the Sea.**

Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

**God spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.**

The people asked, and God brought quails,  
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

**God opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.**

God remembered the holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

**So God brought out the people with joy, the chosen ones with singing.**

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.

**Praise the LORD!**

\*Hymn of Praise #396 “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

\*Call to Confession Scott Berry

\*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,  
You are a God of abundance,  
but too often we think there is not enough—  
not enough to go around,  
so we grab for more than we need –  
more of the resources, more time, more energy.  
Forgive us, Lord.

We believe there is a finite amount of love,  
And that if someone else is loved,  
There will not be enough for us.  
Forgive us, Lord.

Forgive us for our certainty of scarcity  
And our willingness to place our own needs and wants  
Above the needs and wants of others.  
Remind us that there is enough.  
Remind us that you are enough.  
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

Anthem “There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy” (Holy Manna) Chancel Choir

There’s a wideness in god’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there’s a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.  
there is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heav’n;  
there is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgement giv’n.  
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.  
For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;  
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

First Reading Philippians 1:21-30 (Pew Bible NT p.196)

Second Reading Exodus 16:2-15 (Pew Bible OT p.62)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon from the Pulpit “Back of the Bread” Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Affirmation of Faith (The Confession of 1967, 9.21-22)

**The reconciling work of Jesus  
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.  
His cross and resurrection  
become personal crisis and present hope  
for all people  
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.  
In this experience, the Spirit brings God ’s forgiveness to all,  
moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,  
and initiates the new life in Christ.  
The new life takes shape in a community  
in which people know that God loves and accepts them  
in spite of what they are.  
They therefore accept themselves and love others,  
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,  
except God ’s grace.**

\*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 “I Need Thee Every Hour” (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 #693 “Though I May Speak”

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

\*Postlude Rita Harmon & Jim Simmons

“Glorious Is Thy Name, Most High” (arr. Wyrzten)

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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 Emily Morris’ bridal shower by the Circles.

**Please remember in prayer:**

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

The congregation of Limestone Presbyterian extends love and sympathy to Renee Wiseman and family in the passing of her brother-in-law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

**Nominating Committee**

The last day to submit names for consideration to the Congregational Nominating Committee is **Thursday, September 28**. After that, the CNC will take all suggestions from the congregation as well as names prompted by their own leading and prayerfully seek to discern who God is calling to serve the congregation in the Session’s class of 2026. If you have additional names to recommend, please complete a form (available wherever you pick up a bulletin) and place it in the offering plate or in the mailbox of Teresa Spires or Mimi McCully (located outside the Chapel).

**Fall Bible Study**

There will be no Fall Bible Study on Monday night (September 25).

**Bridal Shower**

Join us for a bridal shower for Emily Morris and Adam Davis today at 3:00 p.m.

**Intergenerational Grant**

As a result of being awarded our reKindle Grant (“Intentionally Intergenerational”), Lynn Miller and Robin Morris will be attending the 2023 cohort gathering for the reKindle Grant program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. The gathering will open after lunch on Monday, September 25, and conclude before lunch on Wednesday, September 27. There will be representatives from all congregations who received grants as well as Seminary staff and coaches for each cohort.

**Monthly Giving Opportunity**

The Outreach Committee has decided to designate the 25% local offering of this month’s Peace and Global Witness offering to the Gaffney Free Medical Clinic. This Sunday is the last day we will be collecting this offering, so we wanted you to be aware of this decision.

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**September 25, 1789:** Elias Boudinot, a representative of New Jersey, asks Congress to appoint a joint committee of the House and Senate to approach President Washington with a petition to proclaim a day of thanksgiving. This sparks vigorous debate about separation of church and state and whether the president has the authority under the constitution. In the end the resolution is approved. President Washington, mindful of the limits of his authority, requests the individual states to comply with his proclamation.

**September 27, 1839:** G. Tradescant Lay, an English physician, asserts at the first annual meeting of the Medical Missionary Society in Canton, China, that he will endeavor while he has life, to create a nearly universal system to freely give the benefits of "rational medicine" (as opposed to pre-scientific medicine) to the world's poor.

**September 28, 935:** Murder of King Wenceslas by his brother. A Christian, Wenceslas sought peace with surrounding nations, reformed the judicial system, and showed particular concern for his country's poor. However his coercive Christianity alienated many of his subjects. He is the subject of the carol "Good King Wenceslas."

### 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:

Renee Wiseman  
Betsy Cathcart

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, September 24

9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
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

### Monday, September 25

5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room

### Wednesday, September 27

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Sunday, October 1

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

### Upcoming

Oct 5 – Grace Circle  
Oct 10 – Joy Circle  
Oct 15 – Ministry/Mission Fair  
Oct 22 – Service @ Lake Whelchel  
Oct 28 – Soup Kitchen  
Oct 29 – Pledge Sunday

## NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- Make a reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- Make decisions about how to use your \$20 for the Ministry and Mission Fair
- Mark May 18, 2024 on your calendar. We will host Foothills Presbytery that day!
- Submit names for consideration to serve in the Session's Class of 2026.

## 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

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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



Cody F. Miller. Manna. Mixed Media

I constantly ask God to help me see the manna in my own life and to be manna in someone else's life. Allow me to define manna as any grace that happens in our lives that is completely off our radar screen, whether given or received. This can be in very small things...[or very] profound [things]. What is it that compels an individual to extend grace to me when I don't deserve it or to articulate a small kindness to me that illuminates my whole week? May God help us see and receive that mystery in our own lives and find ways to be that surprise for others. It is the only food really worth eating.

--Cody F. Miller at <https://www.codyfmiller.com/products/manna>