

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 202310:30 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Broughton)Rita Harmon

Advent Candle"He Came Down"
He came down, that we may have hope;
He came down, that we may have hope;
He came down, that we may hope; hallelujah, forevermore.

Lighting the Advent WreathRita and Lilith Harmon
May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the promises God made to
bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, the father of our faith.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn of Praise #9“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Call to ConfessionBill Wheeler

*Prayer of Confession
God our Maker,
we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
We study the trends of our times
and ignore the signs of your reign.
We trust in things that pass away
and forget your eternal promise.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Strengthen us, by your hand,
so that we may be ready for that day
when you come to reign in glory;
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 #44
O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the StepsCarrie Wyatt

Anthem“Of the Father's Love Begotten" (Divinum mysterium) Chancel Choir
Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of he things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!
O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!
Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore Amen.

First ReadingIsaiah 64:1-9 (Pew Bible OT p.694)
Second ReadingMark 13:24-37 (Pew Bible NT p.50)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit"We Need a Little Advent"Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Response"Cloth For The Cradle" (Scottish Tune)
Cloth for the cradle, cradle for the child, the child for our ev'ry joy and sorrow;
find him a shawl that's woven by us all to welcome the Lord of each tomorrow.
1. Darkness and light and all that's known by sight,
Silence and echo fading, Weave into one a welcome for the Son,
Set earth its own maker serenading.
Cloth for the cradle, cradle for the child, the child for our ev'ry joy and sorrow;
find him a shawl that's woven by us all to welcome the Lord of each tomorrow.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith(The Apostles' Creed)
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

*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

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
(Prayer continues concluding with the Lord's Prayer [p. 16 in hymnal])

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion
Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Now by your Spirit, keep us watchful and faithful
so that when Christ comes again
he will find us active in his service

and joyful in his praise.
Through Christ we pray,
Amen.

Service of Giving

Offertory“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (Larson)David Thompson

*Doxology #592
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 #2“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“Join the Triumph of the Skies" (Wagner)Rita Harmon
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\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The flowers in worship today are given for the glory of God.

Please remember in prayer:  
Helen Lowrey; Roberta Byars; Christopher Scott Henry; Patsy Spires; Kathy  
Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are:  
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

Monthly Giving Opportunity  
The December giving opportunity is the Christmas Joy Offering. Please choose  
an angel (or two) from the tree, purchase gifts for that child, and return them  
to the FLC by Dec. 8 with the tag attached. (Do not wrap your gifts, but  
including giftwrap can be very helpful.)

Angel Tree  
Don't forget to return your Angel Tree donations to the FLC by Dec. 8th.

CE on Wednesdays!  
Next Wednesday, we will begin prepping fabric for our scarf service project. If  
you can use scissors or measure things or hold down fabric, we need you! We  
will be tying the blankets the following week.

Weaving a Welcome  
After the sermon, each week in Advent we will be singing a verse of the  
Christmas song "Cloth for the Cradle." We will be embarking on several  
projects to remind us that some of our neighbors are in need of warmth.  
Together we can weave, if not a shawl, then at least some kind of warmth for  
them. Beginning with making scarves, and serving lunch at the Soup Kitchen on  
Saturday, December 23. We will be adding other warm things through Advent.

Next Week in Worship  
Next week LPC's chancel choir and handbell ensemble will lead worship  
through music. Join us for a service that is such a meaningful part of  
Advent/Christmas at Limestone.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**December 3, 1557:** Under the leadership of John Knox, Protestants in Scotland sign their First Covenant at Edinburgh, uniting Presbyterians under the name: “Congregation of the Lord.”

**December 3, 1872:** George Smith read a paper before London’s Society of Biblical Archaeology. An assistant at the British Museum, he studied cuneiform tablets, or clay writings from the middle east. His paper announced that among his tablets he had found a flood account similar to the Bible story of Noah, seeming independent confirmation of the flood story. Unfortunately, the poem on the tablet broke off at mid-point. The Times of London offered a large reward for anyone who could produce the missing tablets. George Smith thought he himself knew where to dig for the missing pieces in Nineveh. He set off to win the reward. Incredibly, he located the missing pieces among thousands of other tablets within a short time. The flood story was part of a larger poem known as the *Gilgamesh Epic*, whose text shortly became available to the west.

**December 4, 1917:** All ecclesiastical property in Russia is confiscated.

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:

Ann Sossamon  
Aedan Mendoza

CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, December 3**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Chapel & via Facebook Live  
4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

**Tuesday, December 5**  
6:15 PM Women's Christmas Dinner

**Wednesday, December 6**  
6:00 PM Wed. night supper

**Sunday, December 10**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship in Music- FLC & via Facebook Live  
2:00-4:00 PM Open House @ Lynn's

**Upcoming**  
Dec 12 – Foster Care Group Dinner  
Dec 23 – Soup Kitchen  
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Sign up for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Mark May 18, 2024 on your calendar. We will host Foothills Presbytery that day!
- ☐ Pick up an angel from the Angel Tree / Return Angel Tree gifts
- ☐ Buy a bookmark / donate for Children's Library
- ☐ Check the LimeLight to see the books purchased with your donations
- ☐ Pick up Advent Calendar



**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)  
WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,  
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,  
TOGETHER



Jean Francois Millet. **Starry Night**. 1850-1865. Yale University Art Gallery.

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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Each year in November, Earth’s orbit passes through the band of Leonid meteors, a stream of dust and crumbs from Comet Tempel-Tuttle that provides stargazers a spectacle of “falling stars.” The Leonid meteor storm was seen across the United States in the night and early morning of November 12th and 13th, 1833. Those who were awake to witness the storm were in awe as between 50,000 and 150,000 meteors fell each hour.