

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude

“Thanksgiving Medley” (arr. Huisman)

Jim Simmons

Call to Worship

Teresa Spires

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.  
Let us worship God.

\*Hymn of Praise #336

“We Gather Together”

\*Call to Confession

Teresa Spires

\*Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,  
In your presence we confess  
our failure to be what you created us to be.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways,  
in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.  
By your loving mercy,  
Helps us to live in your light and abide in your ways,  
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.  
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

Chancel Choir

“A Harvest of Thanksgiving” (Nordmeyer)  
Lord of the Harvest and Bringer of Light, You are the Maker of all that is right.  
You fill our lives with abundance and love,  
sharing ev’ry bright gift from Your glory above,  
ev’ry bright gift from Your glory above.  
Lord of the Harvest, so faithful and true, let us give honor and worship to You.  
You are the Giver of all that is fair,  
so we give our thanks in the way that we share,  
we give our thanks in the way that we share.  
We gather together to raise our thanksgiving,  
with songs of the Spirit and anthems of praise.  
With each declaration, with ev’ry oblation,  
our hearts will be grateful for now, now and always!  
Lord of Harvest, Creator and Friend, we stand amazed at Your love without end!  
Now, in this moment and here in this place,  
we celebrate harvest as children of grace, celebrate harvest as children of grace,  
as we gather together, giving thanks and praise.  
Giving thanks and praise, giving thanks and praise!

First Reading

(Psalm 90, selected, paraphrased)

Lord, you have been our shelter and security in all generations.  
You have always been God, even before you made the mountains  
or formed the earth and the world.  
A thousand years in your sight is like yesterday  
or like a brief moment in the night.  
You sweep the days away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
In the morning the grass flourishes and is renewed;  
but by the evening it fades and withers.  
Human life is short in comparison to you, O God.  
Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
and we will rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Let your work be so visible among us  
That people today and for generations to come will know your glory.  
May your grace, O God, be upon us  
and give meaning and purpose to our daily activities.

Second Reading

Judges 4:1-7 (Pew Bible NT p.220)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit

“Here Comes the Judge”

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Affirmation of Faith

(A Declaration of Faith, 3.5)

God restored some of the people of Israel to their land  
and left others scattered over the earth.  
In a time of exile and alien rule,  
the Jews survived and multiplied.  
They enriched the whole world:  
they compiled the Scriptures, preserving God’s Word to them;  
they sang their songs of praise and lamentation;  
they sought wisdom, examining God’s ways in the world;  
they searched the mysteries of rising and falling kingdoms  
and set their hope on the kingdom of God.  
We testify that God is faithful.  
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
The Lord still brings from oppressed and uprooted peoples  
riches of insight and daring visions  
that can judge and bless the world.  
We can have confidence in God’s coming kingdom  
even in the darkest times.

\*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

“We Gather Together” (Berry)

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 #647

“Give Thanks”

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

\*Postlude

“Finale on Now Thank We All Our God” (Saxton)

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  
and in loving memory of Jason’s mother, Deanna Blanton,  
in honor of her birthday by the Blanton Family.

Please remember in prayer:  
Christopher Scott Henry; Dr. Nord Davis; Cece Manning; Patsy Spires; Kathy  
Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100: Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

The Fall Bible Study

We conclude our Fall Road Trip/Bible Study this week with a look at the big  
picture of Paul. Having looked at his biography, his writings, his audience, and  
his spiritual practices (not to mention his tomb...or maybe it isn’t), we’ll pull  
back and look at Paul from a greater distance. Come wrap up this fall study  
with us in the Family Life Center, Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Service

Join us Tuesday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel for our annual  
Thanksgiving Service.

CE on Wednesdays!

Join us next week, Wednesday November 29, as we prepare the church  
building for Advent and Christmas. We will decorate the Chrismon tree and the  
windows in the sanctuary as well as the windows in the Chapel and the outside  
of the church. We’ll also have greenery available (and kits for folks who ordered  
them) for making an Advent wreath for your home. Come help us deck the halls  
and your own table.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

The November giving opportunity is the Salvation Army/Angel Tree. 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.)

Children’s Library

You still have the opportunity to help expand our children’s library. Bookmarks  
are available in the FLC or you can write a check to the church with the  
notation "Children’s Books" and put it in the offering plate.

Election of Elders

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, November 26, following  
worship, for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders to the Class of 2026. The  
Congregational Nominating Committee will place in nomination Barbara Cope  
and Robin Morris. Information on each nominee is available where you picked  
up a bulletin. Nominations may be made from the floor, but you should have  
previously secured permission from the nominee and made sure they are  
eligible.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**November 20, 303:** Because his prisons are full, the Roman Emperor Diocletian offers amnesty to all Christians who will sacrifice to the Roman gods. Eusebius, in his Martyrs of Palestine, records the case of one man who after being brought to an altar, had his hands seized and made to complete a sacrificial offering. The clergyman was told that his act of sacrifice had been recognized and was summarily dismissed. Others were told they had sacrificed even when they had done nothing

**November 22, 1963:** Death of C. S. Lewis, beloved apologist, scholar and author. His works include *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *Surprised by Joy*, and *Mere Christianity*.

**November 24, 1572:** Death in Edinburgh of John Knox, the most notable of the reformers of Scotland.

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:

- Rita Harmon
- Peggy Wyatt
- Afia Anokye
- Sharon Thompson
- Carly Peeler

CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, November 19**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Chapel & via Facebook Live  
12:00 PM Session Meeting – Conference Room

**Monday, November 20**  
5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room  
6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

**Tuesday, November 21**  
6:00 PM Thanksgiving Service – Chapel

**Wednesday, November 22**  
Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**Sunday, November 26**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Chapel & via Facebook Live  
2:00 PM Put up the Chrismon Tree

**Upcoming**  
Nov 29 – Hanging of the Greens / Advent Wreath Making  
Dec 3 – Yoga  
Dec 5 – Women’s Christmas Dinner

NEXT STEPS

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

MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

| <u>Class of 2023</u>  | <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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



Marc Chagall. Deborah the Judge. Stained glass, Church of St. Stephan, Mainz, Germany.

The "Song of Deborah" in Judges 5 is considered some of the most ancient material in scripture. This poem is a celebration of a mighty victory wrought by Israel over the Canaanites and their general Sisera. When the poem opens there is near-anarchy in Israel -- village life is abandoned, travelers avoid the highways, and the people have chosen new gods. At the center of the poem is Deborah, who arose as "a mother in Israel" (v. 7) to lead the people, with God's help.