

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Christ the King

November 26, 2023

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude

“This Is My Father’s World” (Phillips)

David Thompson

Call to Worship

(Psalm 100)

Teresa Spires

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is God that made us, and we belong to God;

we are God’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, bless God’s name.

For the LORD is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever,

and God’s faithfulness is to all generations.

*Hymn of Praise #151

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Call to Confession

Teresa Spires

*Prayer of Confession

**Sovereign God,
we confess we are willing to give away
your place as king in our lives
to the idols of power and wealth, fame and security.
We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world
and have forgotten our family in Christ.
We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth,
and instead have allowed the things of this world to rule over us.
Forgive us, we pray.
Call us into your reign.
Give us the joy of declaring that you
are the only one who has power over us
and that Your power is love.
Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another
in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.
And hear, 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

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King” (Darwall) Chancel Choir
Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, Rejoice!
His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o’er earth and heav’n;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice
He all our foes shall quell, our sins destroy.
The church His work shall tell with everlasting, lasting joy!
Lift up, lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (Pew Bible OT p.803)

Second Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 (Pew Bible NT p.29)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

“A Sheep and a Goat at the Top of the World”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

(The Nicene Creed, 1,2)

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

*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 16 in hymnal)

Service of Giving

Offertory

“Meditation on Be Thou My Vision” (Lau)

Rita Harmon

*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 #447

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude

“All Thanks and Praise to God” (Lani Smith)

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 Renee’s father, Harold LaVanture and Dean’s mother, Faye Ballew by Dean and Renee Wiseman.

Please remember in prayer:

Roberta Byars; Christopher Scott Henry; Cece Manning; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

CE on Wednesdays!

Join us this 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 today, 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.

We’re in the Parade!

LPC will have a float in this year’s Gaffney Christmas Parade! How can you be part of it? 1) Help us build the float. We’ll meet at the hangar side of Janet and Mac Carroll’s farm on **Thursday (Nov 30)** at 2 p.m. to put together the Christmas tree, fireplace, rocking chair, banners, and more. 2) Children of LPC, you can ride on the float! All LPC children are welcome -- and feel free to bring a friend. You’ll need to be wearing pajamas. You’ll meet at 4:30 on Friday (Dec 1) to be transported to the parade route. 3) You can walk the route and hand out candy. We need more walkers! Wear your LPC t-shirt and represent! If you have questions, contact Janet Carroll (864) 812-2602.

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**November 30, 1170:** Thomas à Becket crosses the English Channel, returning to his post at Canterbury after a six-year exile in France. Four weeks later, knights of King Henry II will murder him.

**December 1, 1999:** Cuban Communists declare that henceforth citizens will be allowed to celebrate Christmas as an official holiday.

**December 2, 1697:** Dedication of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, designed by Christopher Wren. It replaces a medieval cathedral that had burned in the Great Fire of 1666. The Right Reverend Henry Compton, Bishop of London, preaches the dedication sermon based on Psalm 122: "I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord."

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### 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  
11:30 AM Congregational Meeting  
2:00 PM Put up the Chrismon Tree

### Monday, November 27

5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room

### Wednesday, November 29

6:00 PM Wed. night supper / Advent Wreath Making & Hanging of the Greens

### 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

### Upcoming

Nov 29 - Hanging of the Greens / Advent Wreath Making  
Dec 5 - Women's Christmas Dinner  
Dec 23 - Soup Kitchen

## NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- RSVP for the Women's Christmas Dinner
- 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
- Buy a bookmark / donate for Children's Library
- Check the LimeLight to see the books purchased with your donations

## 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:

Hugh Fincher  
Mason Jolly  
Ann Sossamon

## 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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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Hans Memling. **Christ with Singing Angels**. 1480s.  
Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, it was as King and Son of David that his followers hailed him. If it was a king like David the conquering hero that they were looking for, they were of course bitterly disappointed. What they got was a king like David the father, who, when he heard of his treacherous son's death, went up to his chamber and wept. "Would I had died instead of thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" he cried out. They were the most kingly words he ever uttered and an uncanny foreshadowing of his many-times great-grandson who some thousand years later put his money where David's mouth had been.

~Frederick Buechner, originally published in  
*Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*



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