

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 5, 2023

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Minute for Mission

Janet Carroll

GATHERING

Prelude

“Praise to God, Immortal Praise" (Wagner)

Rita Harmon

Call to Worship

Choose today whom you will serve.

The God of our ancestors is also our God.

Our God is the one who gathers and honors the poor of the earth.

Our God is the one who dries our tears.

Our God is the one who gives inheritance to the meek.

Our God is the one who satisfies the hunger of the just.

Our God is the one who gives mercy to the merciful.

Our God is the one who gives vision to the pure in heart.

Our God is the one who adopts the peacemakers.

Our God is the one who lifts up the persecuted.

Our God is the one who finds the lost.

Our God is the one who raises the dead.

Choose today whom you will serve.

We will serve the Lord.

Teresa Spires

*Hymn of Praise #526

“For All the Saints"

*Call to Confession

Teresa Spires

*Prayer of Confession

God of love and mercy,

We thank you for your patience.

You have given us many guides and helpers to inspire us,

And have given us the assurance

That one day we shall be as Christ Jesus is.

Yet we have been slow to hear.

Forgive us, we pray,

If we have placed our hope

In the things we can see and touch,

And have denied ourselves

The greater hope in the glory of things unseen.

Forgive us, we pray,

If we have chosen to nurse our grief

For the loss of dear ones

With only the bitterness of tears

Rather than with the hope of your saving love.

Forgive us, we pray,

When we would rather admire the saints of the past

Rather than strive to be like them.

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

“To Those Who Came Before Me" (DeFord)

Chancel Choir

To those who came before me in seasons long ago,

To those who are the loved ones that I have yet to know,

To those whose noble names I bear, whose light within me burns,

To them in gratitude shall my heart be turned.

To those whose lives of courage prepared the way for me,

Whose works became my heritage, Whose harvest I may reap,

Who left for me a legacy that I have yet to earn,

To them in gratitude shall my heart be turned.

To those who came before me in days and years long past,

To those who are the family that I shall know at last,

Who laid a sure foundation for the truth that I have learned,

To them in gratitude shall my heart be turned.

First Reading

Revelation 7:9-17 (Pew Bible NT p.249)

Second Reading

Joshua 3:17-4:24 (Pew Bible OT p.196)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit

"Thou Wast Their Rock”

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

(A Declaration of Faith, 10.3)

In the death of Jesus Christ

God's way in the world seemed finally defeated.

But death was no match for God.

The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death.

Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living,

that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing.

We do not yet see the end of death.

But Christ has been raised from the dead,

transformed and yet the same person.

In his resurrection is the promise of ours.

We are convinced the life God wills for each of us

is stronger than the death that destroys us.

The glory of that life exceeds our imagination

but we know we shall be with Christ.

So we treat death as a broken power.

Its ultimate defeat is certain.

In the face of death we grieve.

Yet in hope we celebrate life.

No life ends so tragically

that its meaning and value are destroyed.

Nothing, not even death, can separate us

from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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

“Close to Thee" (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 #364

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude

“Triumphant Finale" (Thomas)

Rita Harmon

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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:

Family & friends of Nancy Blanton; Cece Manning; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller

Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

The Fall Bible Study

This week we take a fast trip through Romans. We know the Roman Empire --

centurions and emperors and architectural wonders -- but what do we know

about followers of Christ living in Rome? What did Paul write to them? Come

find out. Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the FLC.

CE on Wednesdays!

This week our children will begin their exploration of Jewish food and festivals

with Nancy McElroy using Beth Kander's book Do Not Eat This Book! Youth and

Adults will choose either the book discussion of The Bronze Bow or the

video/discussion of Walking the Bible. We will eat from 6:00 - 6:30, then pray

together. Time for learning will be 6:40ish to 7:30ish. Locations for each class

will be announced at supper (because we won't know exactly what kind of

activity will be happening in the office hallway). See the 10/26/23 LIMELIGHT

for additional information on each youth/adult option.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting TODAY, following worship, to hear a

motion from the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

This month the offering will go to Salvation Army/Angel Tree. You can place

your donation in the offering plate or the giving box.

Children’s Book Week

November 6-12 is Children's Book Week. Watch our social media posts for tips

from our current and former teachers about good books for the children in

your life. This week we are also working on building our children's library. See

the 11/2/ LIMELIGHT for additional information.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**November 8, 1845:** English archaeologist Austen Henry Layard begins digging at Tigris where he will find the palace of Assurnsirpal II. He will later excavate Nineveh, shedding light and confirmation on disputed biblical accounts.

**November 9, 1572:** Fifteen days before his death, John Knox preaches his last sermon in Edinburgh.

**November, 11, 1620:** In signing The Mayflower Compact the Pilgrims pledge themselves, “solemnly mutually in the presence of God and one another,” to “covenant, and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic.”

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LimeLight
- ☐ Make a reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Mark May 18, 2024 on your calendar. We will host Foothills Presbytery that day!

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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Sharon Thompson, Music Director, Mozart1121@aol.com  
Carrie Wyatt, Director Children & Youth Ministries, carewyatt@gmail.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, November 5**  
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 – Chapel  
11:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
11:45 AM Children’s Sunday School

**Monday, November 6**  
6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

**Tuesday, November 7**  
Election Day – FLC

**Wednesday, November 8**  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

**Friday, November 10 – Sunday, November 12**  
Foothills Presbytery Middle School Youth Retreat

**Sunday, November 12**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Chapel & via Facebook Live  
11:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
11:45 AM Children’s Sunday School  
4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

Upcoming  
Nov 14 – Joy Circle  
Nov 14 – Meeting of Foothills Presbytery, First Presbyterian, Anderson  
Nov 18 – Elder Training sponsored by Foothills Presbytery  
Nov 19 – Session Meeting  
Nov 21 – Thanksgiving Service  
Nov 26 – Put up Chrismon Tree  
Nov 29 – Hanging of the Greens / Advent Wreath Making


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



Wassily Kandinsky. **All Saints I.** 1911. Reverse glass painting.  
Lenbachaus, Munich, Germany.

And now we turn our eyes from wood and paint  
To contemplate the saints in flesh and blood,  
The ones who’ve seen these pictures with us...  
How shall we know each other now? Will all  
That we have seen recede to memory?  
Or is our sight restored, and having gazed  
On icons in this place, will clarity  
Transfigure all of us? We turn, amazed,  
To see the ones beside us, face to face,  
As living icons, sacraments of grace.  
--Malcolm Guite, "Ordinary Saints: Epilogue"