

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:30 AM

Pre-Service “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (McChesney) Handbell Ensemble

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude “He Is Born” (Larson) Handbell Ensemble

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath The Sossamon and Scott Families
May your hearts be filled with peace as you hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who told of one who would be born the Prince of Peace.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn of Praise #41 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Call to Confession Bill Wheeler

*Prayer of Confession
Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been overly proud of our accomplishments
and overly despairing of our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.
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 #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 Steps Carrie Wyatt

A Musical Offering for the Season
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (Mendelssohn) Handbell Ensemble
“Come, Messiah” (Larson) Chancel Choir
“O Holy Night” (Christopher) Chancel Choir
“Noel Festival” (Larson) Chancel Choir
“All Is Well” (Larson) Chancel Choir
“Christ Is Born, Sing Glory to God” (Larson) Chancel Choir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (A Declaration of Faith, 8.1)
God’s people have not been taken out of the world,
but rather have been sent into the world
to worship God there and serve all humankind.
We worship God in the world
by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people.
Our cries for help and our songs of praise
are never for ourselves alone.
Worship is no retreat from the world;
it is part of our mission.
We serve humankind
by discerning what God is doing in the world
and joining God in that work.
We risk disagreement and error
when we try to say what God is doing here and now.
But we find guidance in God's deeds in the past
and God’s promises for the future,
as they are witnessed to in Scripture.
We affirm that the Lord is at work,
especially in events and movements
that free people by the gospel
and advance justice, compassion and peace.

*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 Ginger Harmon & Ella Hobbs
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (with Away in a Manger)” (DeCesare)

*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 #23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude “The Sussex Carrol” (Lau) Rita Harmon

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

Welcome Flautists Ella Hobbs (sophomore at Gaffney High School) and Ginger Harmon.

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 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Monthly Giving Opportunity
The December giving opportunity is the Christmas Joy Offering.

Foster Care Group Dinner
We will serve dinner and provide child care for the Cherokee Co. Foster Care Group this Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 5:00 – 7:30pm. Please see Mimi McCully if you would like to participate.

Christmas Open House
At the home of Lynn Miller today from 2-4pm. 905 S. Johnson St.

CE on Wednesdays!
This 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.

Finance Committee
There will be a Finance Committee Meeting this morning immediately after the worship service.

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.

Last call!
We are about ready to purchase books for the children's library. If you have not yet made a donation and want to, please do so today. You can see Robin Morris or Lynn Miller for information.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

December 10, 1520: German reformer Martin Luther publicly burns Pope Leo X's bull Exsurge Domine, which demands that Luther recant his "heresies," including justification by faith alone.

December 10, 1968: Death of the influential Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, best known for his commentary on Paul's epistle to the Romans and for his stand with the Confessing Church against the Nazis.

December 14, 1655: Oliver Cromwell determines that Jews will be allowed back into England centuries after their expulsion.

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:

Fran Ross
Marc Quick

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, December 10

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor
9:30 AM Chancel Choir Practice – FLC
10:00 AM Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal – FLC
10:30 AM Worship – FLC & via Facebook Live
11:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting
2:00-4:00 PM Open House @ Lynn's

Tuesday, December 12

5:00 PM Foster Care Group Dinner

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 PM Wed. night supper

Sunday, December 17

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room
10:30 AM Worship in Music- Chapel & via Facebook Live
4:00 PM Yoga

Upcoming

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!
- Return any remaining 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

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

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net
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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



Gerard David. Madonna and Child with Two Music-Making Angels. c. 1500.
Warwickshire, England; Upton House (National Trust).

Christmas...was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But
it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with
melody that would last forever.

--Bess Streeter Aldrich