

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "All Nature Sings" (Lani Smith) Rita Harmon

Call to Worship Bob McCully

Jesus said, "Follow me."

For this hour, we will follow.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

For this hour, we will listen to his word.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

For this hour, we will pray in his name.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

For this hour, we will think about our lives as his disciples.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

In this hour - in every hour - we will follow.

\*Hymn of Praise #361 "How Firm a Foundation"

\*Call to Confession Bob McCully

\*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, it is a blessing and privilege that we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community.

We know that we are sometimes like Jonah, so we ask forgiveness for the times we are reluctant to open our doors and open our hearts to others - some who are like us, some who are not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we consider strangers or even enemies.

May we be like you - overjoyed when there is repentance in ourselves and others. And forgive, 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

You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the Steps Carrie Wyatt

Anthem "I Sing th' Almighty Power of God" (Lovelace) Chancel Choir
I sing th' Almighty pow'r of God, That made the mountains rise; That spread the flowing seas abroad, And built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained The sun to rule the day; The moon shines full at his command, And all the stars obey. I sing the goodness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food; He formed the creatures with his word, And then pronounced them good. Lord how thy wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye: If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze upon the sky. There's not a plant or flower below But makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise, and tempests blow, By order from thy throne; While all that borrows life from thee Is ever in thy care, And everywhere that man can be, Thou, God, are present there.

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (Pew Bible OT p.860)

Second Reading Mark 1:4-20 (Pew Bible NT p.34)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Fish Stories" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith (A Declaration of Faith, 9.1)

In forming his people and sending them into the world

Jesus called individuals to be disciples.

They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death.

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.

Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us.

It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.

Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

\*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 "Trust and Obey" (Labenske) 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 #388 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

\*Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

\*Postlude "Triumphant Finale" (Bliss) Rita Harmon

\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The flowers in worship today are given for the glory of God and in honor of Rileigh Miller and her baby boy.

Please remember in prayer:

Rex Allison; Barbara Grinter; Family of Bryson Burgess; Helen Lowrey; 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:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

The January giving opportunity is Smile Train. You may mark your check "Smile Train" or put it in the MGO box in the worship space.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a Congregational Meeting immediately after the worship service today for Lynn's Terms of Call.

CE on Wednesdays

This Wednesday our speaker will be the Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise, teaching elder in the PC(USA) and chaplain at Converse University. Eliza will be talking with us about life for college students -- Generation Z -- which is often very different from the college experiences of earlier generations. Eliza will also be sharing information on the recipients of this year's Souper Bowl of Caring offering. Come be part of the learning!

Contribution envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2024 are in the front of the chapel near the piano. If you didn't receive a set, but would like some, please contact Jim Watts or the church office."

Baby Shower

Circles will host a baby shower honoring Rileigh Miller TODAY at 2:00 PM in the church Parlor. Rileigh is having a boy, and she is registered on Amazon.

Congregational Retreat

Reservation forms for the 2024 LPC Congregational Retreat are available wherever you pick up a bulletin. Join us in wonderful Montreat, NC, at the William Black Lodge May 3-5. We'll spend the weekend together around the theme "Ever-Laughing Life: Joy in the Morning, Noon, and Night." Reservation forms with the initial deposit are due to the church office by February 1.

Spring Bible Study

Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, statues, lions, fiery furnaces...all that and more (including the origin of the phrase "the handwriting on the wall") will be part of our Spring Bible Study, which will begin Tuesday, January 30. There will be a fuller schedule in this week's LIMELight. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC.

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**January 23, 1893:** Death of Phillips Brooks. Though best known as the author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Brooks was an eloquent preacher. He served Trinity Church (Episcopal) in Boston and was a staunch defender of the Trinity at a time when Unitarianism was a rising force in New England.

**January 25, 98:** Trajan becomes Emperor of Rome. Trajan was the adopted son of the Emperor Nerva, who had ended the persecution of Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire. Trajan, who entered Rome with humility, was generally considered a noble-minded and effective emperor. He wrote to Pliny the Younger about how to deal with the Christians in the empire. This is one of the earliest recorded mentions of Christians. Trajan did not perpetuate persecution on the scale of Domitian and other emperors, but he did execute several Christian leaders including Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, January 21

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
 9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
 10:30 AM Worship – Chapel  
 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting – Chapel  
 2:00 PM Baby Shower for Rileigh Miller – Parlor  
 4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

### Wednesday, January 24

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Sunday, January 28

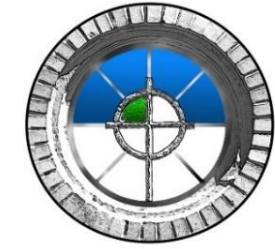
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
 9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
 10:30 AM Worship – Chapel & via Facebook Live

### Upcoming

January 30 Bible Study begins  
 February 3 Elder Training – Providence Presbyterian Church, Greenville  
 February 4 Yoga  
 February 11 Souper Bowl of Caring  
 February 13 Pancake Supper  
 February 14 Ash Wednesday  
 February 24 Soup Kitchen

## NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LIMELight
- Mark May 18, 2024 on your calendar. We will host Foothills Presbytery that day!
- RSVP for Wednesday Night Supper
- Make your reservations for the LPC Congregational Retreat, May 3-5, William Black Lodge, Montreat, NC



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

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



Fish sculpture, formerly at the waterfront of Akko, Israel, placed 2003. At the base of the statue is engraved in Hebrew and Arabic: "In memory of those who loved the sea and remained in its bosom forever." The sculpture was removed c. 2020. (Thanks to Mariam Lovelace for information on this piece.)

### Upon the Fish in the Water

The water is the fish's element;  
 Take her from thence, none can her death prevent;  
 And some have said, who have transgressors been,  
 As good not be, as to be kept from sin.

The water is the fish's element:  
 Leave her but there, and she is well content.  
 So's he, who in the path of life doth plod,  
 Take all, says he, let me but have my God.

The water is the fish's element,  
 Her sportings there to her are excellent;  
 So is God's service unto holy men,  
 They are not in their element till then  
 --John Bunyan, from **A book for boys and girls, or,  
 Country rhymes for children, 1686.**

## MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Teresa Spires	Nancy McElroy	Robin Morris
Dean Wyatt	Mimi McCully	Barbara Cope

## STAFF

Tonya Benton, Administrative Assistant, limepresbyterian@bellsouth.net  
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QR code for electronic contributions:



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