

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

**Prelude** "Baptized In Water" (Gaelic Melody) Jim Simmons

**Call to Worship** Bob McCully

Now that the commercial Christmas is over, we gather, wondering, "Where will we find the Christ Child?"

**We find him in the laughter of children and the wisdom of grandparents.** We gather, asking, "How will we see the baby in the manger?"

**We see him wherever the needy are given hope and where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather, pondering how God's love will be made manifest to the world.

**God's love is manifest when our fears and hatreds are overwhelmed by grace and love.**

O come, let us adore him –  
**Christ the Lord!**

**\*Hymn of Praise #495** "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

**\*Call to Confession** Bob McCully

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.**  
**We have entered the season**  
**in which Your Light has been given to the world,**  
**your blessings have been poured out on the world,**  
**and yet what we think about is our own problems,**  
**our own needs, our own desires.**  
Help us to desire you, Lord.  
Help us to yearn for your presence.  
Pour your baptismal waters over us again,  
cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.  
Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.  
Wash away the jealousy, greed,  
and all negative thoughts and behaviors  
that stand in the way of our truly being  
the people you have called us to be.  
Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation,  
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,  
and in the ministry of the saints of light.  
And hear 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** "How Can I Give You Thanks" (Patterson) Chancel Choir  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you made the stars that shine so bright?  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you gave the heavens light?  
Oh, Lord, your works are wonderful; their beauty I can see,  
and yet I stand here amazed, oh, Lord, That you would give such gifts to me.  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you came to earth from heaven above?  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you gave the world such love?  
If I learn to sing your praise and serve you all my days,  
I would just begin to thank you for your gift of grace.  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you came to earth from heaven above?  
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you gave the world such love?  
You gave the world such love.

**First Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible OT p.)  
**Second Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible NT p.)  
**Third Reading** Mark 1:4-11 (Pew Bible NT p.)  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon from the Pulpit** "The Third Gift" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Installation of Ruling Elders Barbara Cope and Robin Morris (Class of 2026)**

**\*Profession of Faith**  
Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**  
Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**  
Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,**  
**Maker of heaven and earth,**  
**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**  
**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;**  
**the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,**  
**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**  
**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;**  
**the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;**  
**the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism**

**Constitutional Questions for the Ruling Elders**  
Do you trust in Jesus Christ your savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfil your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**Constitutional Questions for the Congregation**

Do we, the members of the church, accept Robin and Barbara as ruling elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow a they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

**Prayer of Ordination**

**Declaration of Ordination**

**Charge to the Newly Ordained**

**Charge to the Congregation**

**Prayers of the People** concluding with the Lord's Prayer (page 16 in hymnal)

**Service of Giving**

**Offertory** "It Is Well With My Soul" (Limbaugh) 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 #492** "Baptized in Water"

**\*Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

**\*Postlude** "Let the World Go Forth" (Birchwood) 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.

**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:**  
1 Samuel 3:10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

### 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.

### Circles

Joy Circle will meet Tuesday, January 9th, at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. The Bible study will be Lesson 4: "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus." Everyone is welcomed to join a time of study and fellowship.

### CE on Wednesdays

Beginning January 3, we will be digging into the idea of what it means to be an intentionally intergenerational church. We will have programs that help us more fully understand generations (our own and others') and programs that reach across generations. A full calendar will be published soon.

### 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."

### THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**January 10, 1514:** Publication of the first printed *polyglot* (many languages) Bible in Acala, Spain. The *Complutesian Polyglot*, paid for by Cardinal Ximenez, the Inquisitor of Spain, was compiled by Diego Lopez de Zunga. The Old Testament ran to four volumes. Jerome's Latin *Vulgate* was sandwiched between the Hebrew text and the *Septuagint* (the Greek version of the Old Testament). For the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses) the arrangers also provided an Aramaic translation. In a preface, Ximenez said he hoped the polyglot would assist scholars to determine the correct interpretation of Scripture and argued that while the "meaning of heavenly wisdom" can be found in any language, the true meaning of Scripture cannot "be understood in any way other than from the very fount of the original language."

**January 13, 1547:** The Council of Trent approved a decree on justification (how God puts us back in right relationship when we have sinned). The Council, organized to be an answer to Martin Luther and the rise of Protestantism, condemned heresies and announced major declarations and explanations of the Church's creed and teachings. The Council gathered for 25 sessions between December 1545 and December 1563. During its discussions, the Council made the Vulgate the official example of the Biblical canon and authorized the creation of a standard version. In 1565, a year after the Council concluded, Pius IV announced the Tridentine Creed and his heir Pius V then issued the Roman Catechism and updates of the Breviary and Missal. These then led to the codification of the Tridentine Mass, which continued as the Church's main method of the Mass for the following four hundred years.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, January 7

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 – FLC

### Tuesday, January 9

10:30 AM Joy Circle – Parlor

### Wednesday, January 10

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Sunday, January 14

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 Session Meeting – Conference Room  
5:00 PM Game Night – FLC

### Upcoming

January 21 Congregational Meeting  
January 21 Baby Shower for Rileigh Miller  
January 21 Yoga

### 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

### 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:

Lib Allen  
Barbara Grinter

### 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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# LIMESTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



J.C. Leydendecker. Three Wise Men. 1900.

I have a need of silence and of stars;  
Too much is said too loudly; I am dazed.  
The silken sound of whirled infinity  
Is lost in voices shouting to be heard.

-- from "Home" by William Alexander Percy

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