

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday in Lent

February 18, 202410:30 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude"I Love to Tell the Story" (Lani Smith)Rita Harmon

Call to Worship(based on Psalm 25, selected)Dean Wyatt
To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.
In you, O God, is our trust.
Do not let us be put to shame.
Do not let our enemies exult over us.
Do not remember our sins,
but remember us according to your steadfast love.
Make your ways known to us, O Lord.
Teach us your paths.
Lead us in your truth.
For you are the God of our salvation.

*Hymn of Praise #687“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*Call to ConfessionDean Wyatt

*Prayer of Confession
God of love,
We come to you in another season of Lent,
asking for your forgiveness.
You have given us your word –
in scripture and in your son.
You have given us your presence –
in the Holy Spirit and in our community.
You have given us your kingdom –
in teaching and in service.
Yet we neglect or even disregard your purposes.
Forgive us, we pray.
Forgive when we are ignorant of your word,
when we are oblivious to your presence,
and when we are inattentive to your kingdom
on earth or in heaven
In this season may we take the time
to see who we are and who you are,
and may we commit ourselves to doing better
and being better.
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 #437
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 StepsCarrie Wyatt

Anthem“Endless Mercies" (Forrest)Chancel Choir
When I'm burdened by my sin, God in mercy pardons me,
cleanses and forgives in full, sets my guilty conscience free.
When I faced a hopeless grave, God in mercy rescued me;
He has paid redemption's price on the cross of Calvary.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, with singing; let His praises adorn this place.
Bless the Lord for His tender mercies; let me never forget His grace.
When I lift to Him my cry, God in mercy feels my grief,
healing ev'ry hidden hurt, turning pain to sweet relief.
When I number all God's gifts, endless mercies pouring down,
then I know His steadfast love rests upon me like a crown.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, with singing; let His praises adorn this place.
Bless the Lord for His tender mercies; let me never forget His grace.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, with singing; let His praises adorn this place.
Bless the Lord for His tender mercies; let me never forget His grace.
Bless the Lord for His tender mercies. Let me never forget His grace. Bless the Lord!

First ReadingGenesis 9:8-17 (Pew Bible OT p.7)
Second ReadingMark 1:9-15 (Pew Bible NT p.34)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit“Lent 1 in Mark’s Gospel”Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith(A Declaration of Faith, 2.3)
God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth
and all that lives on it.
We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.
Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,
to order and reshape the world.
We hold the earth in trust
for future generations of living things.
The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.
The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures.
The Lord bids us use our technical skills
for beauty, order, health, 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 Peopleconcluding with the Lord’s Prayer (page 35 in hymnal)

Service of Giving

Offertory"Oh How I Love Jesus" (Limbaugh)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 #775“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (arr. Chesterton)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:  
Sara Setzer; Butch & Barbara Jarman; Lynda; Matt; Karen Lydon; Tracy;  
Barbara Grinter; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher;  
Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are:  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

Monthly Giving Opportunity  
The February giving opportunity is Souper Bowl. You may mark your check  
"Souper Bowl" or put it in the MGO box in the worship space.

Spring Bible Study  
Bible study will resume on Tuesday (2/20) with the third chapter of Daniel.  
Travel with us to Babylon at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC.

Soup Kitchen Help Needed  
We need servers and other help for this Saturday's opportunity to serve lunch  
to our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Please see Mimi McCully if you are able  
to help.

Foothills Presbytery  
The 125th meeting of Foothills Presbytery will be Tuesday (2/20) at Fountain  
Inn Presbyterian Church. The regular business of the presbytery will be  
conducted. One special item of note is that our own Robin Morris will be  
examined on the floor of presbytery as the last step in her journey to becoming  
a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Robin has completed all the study and has been  
examined by the Exams Commission of the Committee on Ministry. She will  
now be asked questions about Bible, theology, polity, and worship and  
sacraments. The Exams Commission has some questions prepared, but the  
floor is open for anyone (Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder) to ask a question.  
Robin is well-prepared for this last step, but some additional prayers on  
Tuesday would no doubt be appreciated. And don't forget that the next  
meeting of Foothills Presbytery -- on May 18 -- will be here at Limestone!

CE on Wednesday: The Lord's Prayer  
We continue our exploration of the Lord's Prayer this week, looking  
particularly at the phrase "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is  
in heaven." Supper is at 6 p.m. followed by prayer and time for learning.

The Visible Lord's Prayer  
Where on earth do you see the Lord's Prayer? Is it in your daily bread? Do you  
see signs of God's kingdom on earth? When you see something that reminds  
you of the Lord's Prayer, grab your phone and take a picture of it. Then either  
post your photo to the Wakelet (see last week's LimeLight for that information)  
or send it to Lynn with the part of the prayer that you captured and she will  
post it. We'll be using some of your photos for bulletin covers during Lent.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**February 20, 1960:** Death of Sir Charles Leonard Woolley, a British archaeologist who spent more than 40 years in the field. Woolley is remembered for having excavated Ur of the Chaldees, and for discovering the ancient Sumerian civilization.

**February 24, 1946:** Death of Charles M. Sheldon, a Congregational minister who spent most of his ministry in Kansas. Displeased that the audiences at his Sunday evening services were not nearly as large as those at the morning services, Sheldon hit upon the idea of reading "sermon stories"--serial stories in which each installment ended at a tense moment in the narrative. In one early story, for example, the hero was at the bottom of a mine shaft with water pouring in as the first episode ended. People wanted to come back to find out what happened next, and within three weeks Sheldon's church was overflowing on Sunday evenings. In the fall of 1896 the sermon story was entitled "In His Steps." It was a tale of a group of committed Christians who resolved to ask themselves whenever they had hard decisions to make, "What would Jesus do?" Their dedication led them to avoid the easy choices, instead opting for difficult but spiritually rewarding projects in service of others.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, February 18**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
11:45 AM Session Meeting – Conference Room  
4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

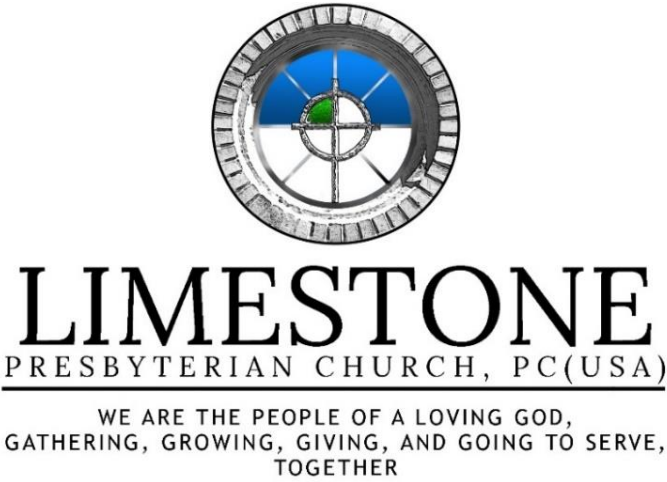
**Monday, February 19**  
5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room

**Tuesday, February 20**  
6:00 PM Bible Study – FLC

**Wednesday, February 21**  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

**Saturday, February 24**  
10:30 AM Soup Kitchen

**Sunday, February 25**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live



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:

Butch Jarman  
Bettina Cline  
Bill Wheeler



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

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

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QR code for electronic contributions:



Only God is holy, just as only people are human. God's holiness is God's Godness. To speak of anything else as holy is to say that it has something of God's mark upon it. Times, places, things, and people can all be holy, and when they are, they are usually not hard to recognize. One holy place I know is a workshop attached to a barn. ...I have no idea why this place is holy, but you can tell it is the moment you set foot in it if you have an eye for that kind of thing. For reasons known only to God, it is one of the places God uses for sending God's love to the world through.

--Frederick Buechner,  
originally published in *Wishful Thinking* and later in *Beyond Words*

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