THE ORDER OF WORSHIP 4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

Call to Worship

gave up.

10:30 AM

David Thompson

Nancy McElroy

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

We are ready to sing happy songs. We are ready to enjoy the things we

"Old Rugged Cross" (Bover) Prelude

We have completed 22 of the 40 days of Lent.

Carrie Wyatt

Anthem

"Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" (Butler) Chancel Choir

Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled! Here the King of all the ages, throned in light ere worlds could be, Robed in mortal flesh is dying, crucified by sin for me. O mysterious condescending! O abandonment sublime! Very God himself is bearing all the sufferings of time!

Perfect God on thee has bled!

What do your eyes see?

A world divided. Christ's church divided. A lack of commitment.

Look again in this place. What do you see?

We see the cross of Christ. We see the people of God.

What do you see in the cross of Christ?

The work of saving the world, which Christ undertook out of love for us.

What do you see in the people of God?

The ones whom God so loved.

What should we do in this hour?

Look not at ourselves, but instead worship God, who loves us.

*Hymn of Praise #366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

~~Please bring your Lenten Prayer Slips forward during this hymn~~

*Call to Confession

Nancy McElroy

*Prayer of Confession (based on Ephesians 2:1-10, The Message)

God of eternity,

How hard it is to admit

that we see remain mired in lives of sin.

We let the world,

which doesn't know the first thing about living,

tell us how to live.

We fill our lungs with polluted unbelief,

and then exhale disobedience.

We follow the lead of others,

doing only what we feel like doing.

It's a wonder you don't lose your temper

and punish the whole lot of us.

Instead, because you are immense in mercy,

vou take our sin-dead lives

and make us alive in Christ.

Forgive us, we pray,

when we are too happy in our sinfulness to want to repent,

when we think we are fine just as we are,

when our lives reflect little to nothing of you.

Help us do better.

Help us be better.

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 #437

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

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the Steps

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed,

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed, Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

THE WORD

First Reading **Second Reading** Numbers 21:4-9 (Pew Bible OT p.139) John 3:14-21 (Pew Bible NT p.94)

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

"Exalted"

Affirmation of Faith

(A Declaration of Faith, 4.4)

Religious leaders hated Jesus

because he criticized their hypocrisy

and reproved their neglect of justice and mercy.

They charged him with blasphemy and sedition

when he claimed to speak and act with God's authority.

One of Jesus' followers betrayed him.

Others abandoned and denied him

because they were afraid to stand with him.

Civil authorities condemned him

because he provoked unrest among the people.

He was sentenced, mocked, beaten,

and crucified as a common criminal.

We confess that in the execution of Jesus

the sin of the human race reached its depths.

The only innocent One was condemned and put to death,

not by the sinfulness of one nation,

but by the sinfulness of us all.

In the presence of Jesus,

who lived out what God wants us all to be,

we were threatened beyond endurance.

Blinded by our rebellion against our Creator,

we killed his Son when we met him face to face.

*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 "O Lamb of God, I Come" (Broughton) Rita Harmon

*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 #700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude "Postlude on Halifax" (Smith) Rita Harmon

*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:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

The March giving opportunity is One Great Hour of Sharing. You may mark your check "OGHoS" or put it in the MGO box in the worship space.

Spring Bible Study

It's back to Babylon this week, studying chapters 7-9 in the book of Daniel. Join us for some visions and beasts and symbols and prayer. 6:00 FLC, Tuesday night.

CE on Wednesday: The Lord's Prayer

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. What's the t-shirt -- "Lead me not into temptation...I can find it myself." True of most humans. We can find temptations almost anywhere. So why is this a petition in the Lord's Prayer? Join us for dinner at 6:00 followed by prayer and program at 6:30 in the FLC

The Joy Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 am, in the church parlor. The Bible study, led by Hazel Hubbard, will be Lesson 7: "An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus." Deborah Smith will be hostess. All women are welcome to join us for a time of prayer, Bible Study, fellowship, and a little bit of breaking of bread.

The Visible Lord's Prayer

You can still post your images of where you see the Lord's Prayer in the world today. We still have a couple of weeks of bulletin covers that need filling.

Spring Small Group Gatherings

The Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee is sponsoring a series of small group gatherings for us to join with others for a meal and a time of fellowship. Sign up in the FLC to attend the gathering of your choice.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

March 11, 1738: English revivalist George Whitefield wrote in his journal: 'Suffering times are a Christian's best improving times; for they break the will, wean us from the creature, prove the heart.'

March 12, 1607: Birth of Paul Gerhardt, German clergyman and hymnwriter. He lost four of his five children in childhood, yet also composed over 130 hymns, including "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," based on a medieval Latin text. Gerhardt's music marks the transition in Lutheran hymnody from confessional and high-church hymns to hymns of devotional piety.

March 15, 1804: Birth of James W. Alexander, American Presbyterian clergyman and hymn writer. It was Alexander who, in 1830, rendered the English text of Paul Gerhardt's immortal German hymn, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (#221 in Glory to God).

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:

Vincent Anokye

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, March 10

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

Monday, March 11

5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room

Tuesday, March 12

10:30 AM Joy Circle - Parlor 6:00 PM Bible Study - FLC

Wednesday, March 13

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper - FLC

Friday, March 15

6:00 PM Small Group Gathering @ Janet Carroll's

Saturday, March 16

6:00 PM Small Group Gathering @ Renee Wiseman's

Sunday, March 17

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 12:15 PM Small Group Gathering @ Becky Wheeler's

Upcoming

March 21 Small Group Gathering @ Michelle Jolly's

March 23 Small Group Gathering in the FLC hosted by Robin Morris

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service

March 29 Good Friday Service, 12 noon, Chapel

March 31 Easter Sunday

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.

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 Rita Harmon, Organist, mteach1@aol.com Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller, Pastor, limestone.presby.pastor@gmail.com Vicki Miller, Nursery Attendant/Custodian, vsrmiller@yahoo.com Sharon Thompson, Music Director, Mozart1121@aol.com Carrie Wyatt, Director Children & Youth Ministries, carewyatt@gmail.com QR code for electronic contributions:



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



Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

"Forgiveness is the remission of sins. For it is by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again." - St. Augustine, Enchiridion (Handbook) on Faith, Hope, and Love, Ch. XVII.