

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "Praise for the Morning" (Lani) Rita Harmon

Call to Worship (based on Micah 6:6-8) Teresa Spires

With what shall we come before the Lord?

**What shall we bring into the presence of our God,
as an expression of our worship and praise?**

Shall we bring God all that we own—

**our finest possessions, our life-savings,
our investments and property?**

Would God be satisfied if we brought everything we possess?

No, that's not what God is looking for.

God has told us what is good,

and what God expects of us:

To do justice.

To love mercy.

To walk humbly before God.

***Hymn of Praise** "God, We Gather Now Before You" (Anniversary Hymn)

1. God, we gather now before you in this house you call your own; Built by saints whose faith was steadfast, Christ their rock and cornerstone. For their vision bold we praise you for the hope that made them dare. Help us in this generation tend the heritage we share.
2. Yet, let hist'ry never blind us to the tasks of this new day. Give us ears to hear Christ calling, "Follow in my Kingdom's way!" Set our feet on paths of service where the people cry in pain. Make us strong to strive for justice till on earth his truth shall reign!
3. Holy Spirit, move among us, binding us in unity. By your wind and fire rouse us from our fear and lethargy. Form us as Christ's present body sent a broken world to heal. May our ministry and witness his redeeming love reveal!
4. God of all the passing ages, God of centuries yet to be; Help us in this present hour love and serve you faithfully. Though foundations sure be shaken when we pass through trials unknown, May our trust in you be steadfast, Christ our rock and cornerstone!

***Call to Confession** Teresa Spires

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving and merciful God,

How hard it is to love as you love.

It is easy to love you with all that we are,

But harder to love our neighbor with all that we have.

**We have passed by suffering and misfortune
because of fear or busyness or preoccupation.**

**We have held prejudices against people
only because they were different from us.**

**We have let those prejudices guide our actions,
And our actions have fallen short of your requirements for us.**

**Eternal God, heal our pains, amend our faults,
and guide us in ways of danger and compassion,**

**for we pray in the name of Jesus,
our most beloved neighbor,**

who cared for us even enough to die for us.

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 #447**

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the Steps

Carrie Wyatt

Anthem

"I Will Arise" (Lovelace)

Chancel Choir

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.
Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of thy redeeming love.
I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

First Reading Leviticus 25, selected (Pew Bible OT p.112)

Second Reading Acts 2:43-47 (Pew Bible NT p.120)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Helping" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (A Declaration of Faith, 9.4)

Christ teaches us

to go beyond legal requirements

in serving and helping our neighbor,

to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,

to care passionately for the other's good,

to share what we have.

It is part of our discipline

to live in simplicity,

avoiding greed and luxury

that threaten our neighbor's survival.

We are obligated to speak the truth in love,

to listen with patience and openness,

to love our enemies,

to accept the risk and pain

which love involves.

***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 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Berry) 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 #305** "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

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

***Postlude** "Recession on St. Denio" (Edwards) 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:

Teresa Spires and the Family of Miriam Burgess; Robin Morris and the Family of Ben Elliott; J.T. Spires; Lib Allen; Barbara Grinter; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's lectionary readings are:

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

The August giving opportunity is Heifer International. Please mark your check "Heifer" & place it in the MGO box in the worship space or the offering plate.

Wednesday Night

Our regular Wednesday night suppers resume this week with the Outreach Committee hosting.

Yoga

Join us for Yoga today @ 4pm in the FLC. In September, Yoga will meet on the 1st & 5th Sundays (Sept. 1 & 29).

Big Faith, Big Questions

This week's question: "How can people call themselves Christian, and support policies that don't help the less fortunate in our world?"

Join us Wednesday night as we begin the discussion on "What scripture may help us answer the question 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' & How to comfort a parent when a child dies."

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

August 19, 1846: One thousand delegates from fifty different evangelical sects throughout the world meet in London. Among the questions that this Evangelical Alliance takes up are whether or not fellowship should be held with slaveholders. Americans insist that it should, and their views prevail.

August 22, 565: Celtic missionary and abbot Columba confronts a monster at Loch Ness, becoming the first recorded observer of the creature. "At the voice of the saint, the monster was terrified," writes his biographer, "and fled more quickly than if it had been pulled back with ropes."

August 23, 1928: Death in Catonsville, Maryland, of Russell Kelso Carter. A Methodist preacher, he had authored the hymn "Standing on the Promises."

Happy Birthday to Us!

On August 18, 1877, a few faithful Presbyterians petitioned the South Carolina Presbytery to organize a church in Gaffney. We remember with gratitude all the saints whose commitment resulted in the congregation we know today, and we pray that we will be as faithful in our work for the church of Jesus Christ. If you haven't seen the growing collection of "history" photos displayed in the hallway by the parlor, why not walk through there today. You'll see some familiar faces and some "blasts from the past."

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, August 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

Wednesday, August 21

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

Saturday, August 24

10:30 AM Soup Kitchen

Sunday, August 25

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

Upcoming

August 27 Bible Study @ The Retreat
September 1 Yoga
September 2 Labor Day Holiday
September 5 Grace Circle
September 10 Joy Circle
September 29 Yoga

NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LIMELight
- Make your reservation 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

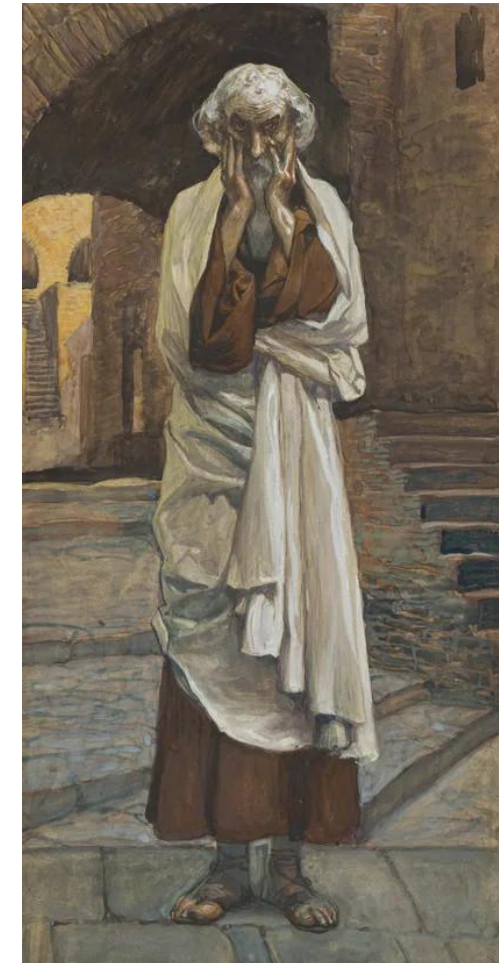
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LIMESTONE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



James Tissot. **The Prophet Micah.** Gouache. c. 1900. NYC: Jewish Museum.

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:6-8, NRSVUE



QR code for electronic contributions: