

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "O Blessed Thoughts!" (arr. Potter/Cook) Jim Simmons

Call to Worship (based on I Timothy 1:9-10, 12) Bill Wheeler

Join with me in testimony about the power of God.

God saved us and called us with a holy calling.

Did God save and call us according to our own works?

No, but according to God's purpose and grace.

When was this grace given to us?

In Christ Jesus before the ages began.

Christ is the one in whom we have put our trust.

Christ is able to guard that which we have entrusted to him.

***Hymn of Praise #611** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

***Call to Confession** Bill Wheeler

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,

You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,

Nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves

We have not done justice, loved kindness,

Or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Do not cast us away from your presence,

Or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation

And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Have mercy on us, we pray,

And forgive 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.

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THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the Steps Carrie Wyatt

First Reading Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (Pew Bible OT p.164)

Second Reading Romans 8:24-34 (Pew Bible NT p.158)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "Hope and Predestination" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1)

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,

but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—

to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,

and has set me free from all the power of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way

that not a hair can fall from my head

without the will of God in heaven;

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,

Christ, by his Holy Spirit,

assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready

from now on to live for him.

***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 "Give Me Jesus" (Lau) 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 #366** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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

***Postlude** "Baroque Trumpet" (Young) 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:**

Community of Winder, GA; Holly Nolff; Trisha Boyett; Lynda G; Fred G; Hannah

Vincent; John Schuler; Shannon Reed; Mickey Harmon; 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:**

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

**Monthly Giving Opportunity**

The September giving opportunity is the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

We will also be collecting school supplies. Please mark your check "PGWO" &

place it in the MGO box in the worship space or the offering plate and drop off

your school supplies in the space provided.

**Bible Study**

Our fall Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm in the Family

Life Center. We will be studying the life and an assortment of writings of

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a 20<sup>th</sup> century German (Lutheran) theologian.

**Yoga**

In September, Yoga will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (Sept. 1 & 29).

**Circles**

Joy Circle will meet Tuesday, Sept.10 at 10:30am in the Parlor. If you have not

already picked up your book, they are available for sign out in the Library.

**Big Faith, Big Questions**

This week's question: "How do free will and predestination work together? &

Why do we have doubts about our salvation?"

Join us Wednesday night as we begin the discussion on "When Jesus said,

'There are some standing here who will not taste of death until they see the

Kingdom of God coming with power,' who was he referring to?"

**Matthew 25 in the PCUSA**

The PCUSA's Matthew 25 invitation focuses on Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus

makes clear that what we do matters to God and how we treat others is

important to God. When we welcome others, we welcome Christ. When we

serve the most vulnerable in society, we are serving Jesus. When we address

the systems of this world that oppress people, we are doing the work of Jesus.

Your Session has endorsed the formation of a task force to determine what it

might look like for LPC to be part of this movement. Are you interested in being

part of this task force? If so, see Mimi McCully.

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**September 9, 1519:** Philip Melancthon presents his theses for Baccalaureate of Theology at Wittenberg. They stress the authority of Scripture and of anyone's inability to meet God's righteous requirements on their own. Melancthon was a German reformer, a colleague and defender of Martin Luther. The *Augsburg Confession* (1530) was mainly Melancthon's work.

**September 11, 1672:** Ordination of Solomon Stoddard (1643-1729), a Congregational minister in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Stoddard will introduce the "halfway covenant." By the mid-seventeenth century Puritan New England's first American-born children had come of age, but most children of this second generation were not presenting themselves for full membership in the church. Stoddard introduced the practice of "halfway covenanting," which permitted adult children who had not formally joined the church to become "halfway members." Halfway membership made it possible to affiliate more closely with the church without making a public statement of faith and conversion. The objective of the practice was to allow the adult children of the first generation of settlers, who were committed to Christianity but unsure of their own conversions, to bring their own young children for baptism in the church.

### 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:

**Margaret Moeller**  
**Jeff Cavender**  
**Abram Miller**

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, September 8

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

### Monday, September 9

6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

### Tuesday, September 10

10:30 AM Joy Circle – Parlor

### Wednesday, September 11

5:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg – Conference Room  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

### Sunday, September 15

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
11:45 AM Session Meeting – Conference Room

### Upcoming

September 16 Handbell Rehearsals Begin  
September 17 Fellowship/Congregational Care Meeting  
September 24 Bible Study @ The Retreat  
September 29 Yoga  
October 6 CE Committee Mtg.  
October 13 Worship at Lake Whelchel

## 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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QR code for electronic contributions:

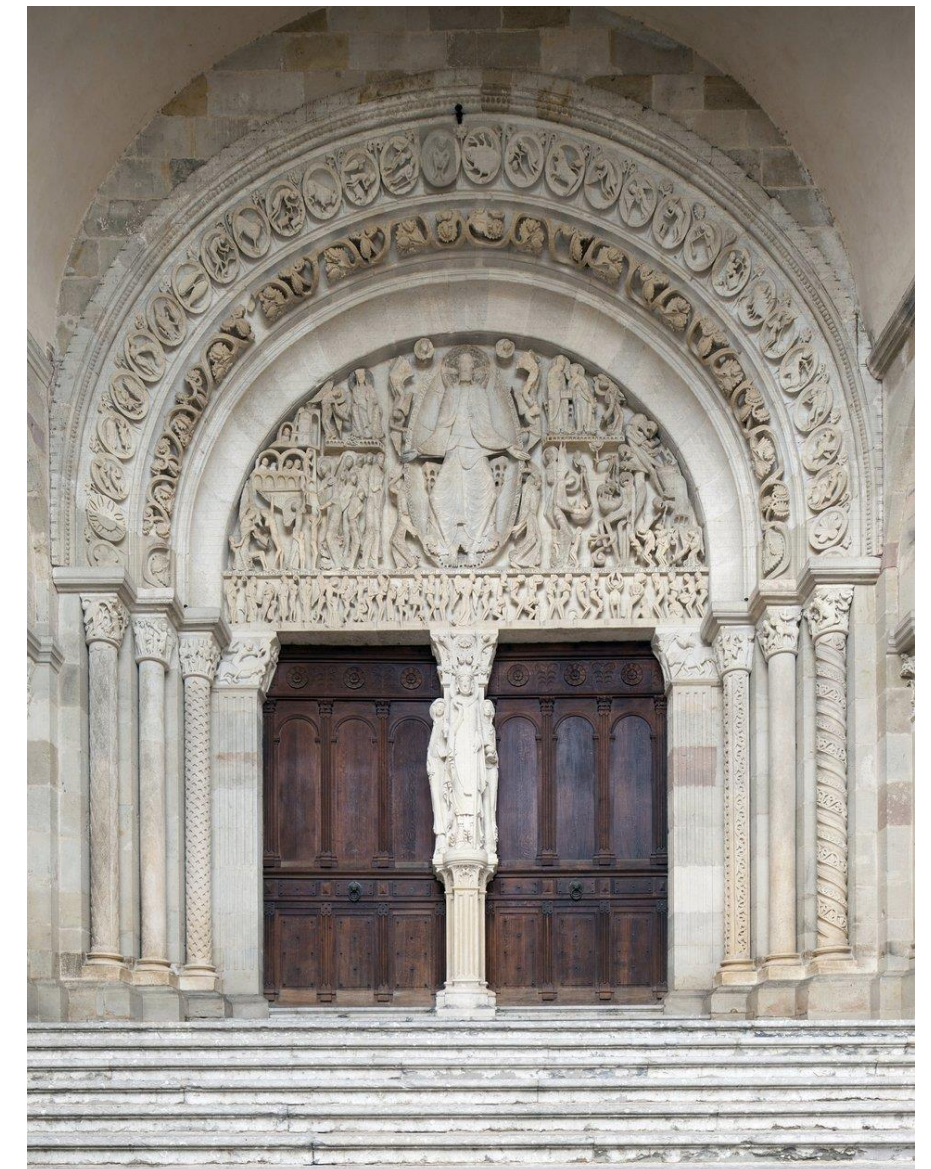


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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

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



Gislebertus. **Last Judgment.** Tympanum sculpture, west portal, Cathedral of St. Lazare, Autun, France. c. 1120-1135.