



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 3, 2023 | Fellowship Hall Service

\* *Congregation standing as you are able*

## **Order of Worship**

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**Welcome and greetings**

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

\* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 97

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

**All: For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.**

\* **Hymn of praise**

“This Is My Father’s World”

This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears,  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world, the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker’s praise.  
This is my Father’s world: he shines in all that’s fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father’s world: the battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav’n be one.  
*text by Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901; music by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915*

\* **Prayer of adoration**

## Call to confession

James 1:23-26

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

## Silent prayers of confession

### Assurance of God's pardoning grace

Titus 3:4-7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

### \* Hymn of assurance

“'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;  
just to rest upon his promise; just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

*Refrain:* Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;  
just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood! *Refrain*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;  
just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace. *Refrain*  
text by Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; music by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882

## Worship in the giving of God's tithe and our offerings

### Offertory hymn

“Ancient of Days”

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,  
there is still one King reigning over all.  
So I will not fear, for this truth remains:  
that my God is the Ancient of Days.

*Refrain:* None above him, none before him, all of time in his hands;  
for his throne, it shall remain and ever stand.  
All the power, all the glory, I will trust in his name;  
for my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul,  
he is here with me; I am not alone.  
O his love is sure, and he knows my name,  
for my God is the Ancient of Days. *Refrain*

Though I may not see what the future brings,  
I will watch and wait for the Savior King.  
Then my joy complete, standing face to face,  
in the presence of the Ancient of Days. *Refrain*

text and music by J. Reeves, J. Robinson, M. Farren, and R. Thompson, © 2018 CityAlight Music, LLC, ARR,  
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**\* Scripture reading from Luke 12:35-48**

Jeffery Compton

<sup>35</sup>“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

<sup>41</sup>Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” <sup>42</sup>And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup>Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup>And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup>But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

### Sermon

"Ready and Waiting"

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of mission & worship

The Lord's certain return at an uncertain hour necessitates:

1. watchful readiness. (vv. 35-40)
2. faithful stewardship. (vv. 41-48)

### Pastoral prayer

#### \* Hymn of response

"O Church, Arise"

O church, arise, and put your armor on, hear the call of Christ our captain;  
for now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies;  
an army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;  
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;  
and Christ will have the prize for which he died: an inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;  
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet, for the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,  
this vict'ry march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry hurdle,  
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of his grace,  
we hear their calls and hunger for the day when, with Christ, we stand in glory.

*text by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music, LLC, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036*

#### \* Benediction

\* Doxology

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.

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Amy Barham** – vocals

**Anna Davis** – flute

**David Henry** – guitar, vocals

**Hannah Lutz** – viola

**Olivia Rainer** – vocals

**Bob Wharton** – piano

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

All members received an email inviting participation in the officer nomination process. Please visit [lmpc.org/officers](http://lmpc.org/officers) to not only submit your nominations but also see a list of those eligible to serve as officers, a video explanation, and answers to frequently asked questions. Submit nominations online OR call the church office at 423-821-4528 to request a paper ballot. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, September 24. Questions? Email [nominations@lmpc.org](mailto:nominations@lmpc.org).

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall today for the purpose of congregational consideration to call TE Chad Middlebrooks and TE Aaron Tolson as associate pastors.

**BUILD-A-BAG ENDS TODAY!** Please drop off your bag under the porte-cochere for the Salvation Army food collection. Volunteers are needed to help load filled bags onto the truck on Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m.; email [stephanie@lmpc.org](mailto:stephanie@lmpc.org) to help.

**VIP TRIVIA NIGHT & ICE CREAM SOCIAL** will be held on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building. Compete in teams, enjoy ice cream, and bring an umbrella to donate to Shepherd's Arms Rescue Mission. Please register on Realm Connect or in the church office by September 8; cost is \$5. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from LMPC and the community who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.*

**COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED** during morning worship on September 10. Due to the Labor Day holiday, it has been moved from the first Sunday of the month.

**ALL WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES FOR THE FALL** resume September 6, including youth groups and studies, children's choir and clubs, adult classes and studies, and fellowship dinner. See [lmpc.org/groups](http://lmpc.org/groups) for descriptions of events. Join us!

**LMPC YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 23-40)** are invited to the home of Mary and Wil Nettleton for a potluck dinner on Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share; the Nettletons will provide the meat. Kids are welcome! Please register on Realm Connect by Tuesday, September 12.

**WOMEN'S FALL BOOK CLUBS** will be held on Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. Choose a book and register for the corresponding location to eat and discuss together. See all options and register on Realm Connect by September 24.

**MEN'S STEAK NIGHT** will be held in various homes on Thursday, September 28. Build friendships, laugh hard, and eat meat! Register on Realm Connect by September 20, and let us know if you are bringing a friend.

**DO YOU KNIT?** Join the Knitwits on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Dottie Brock's home. Currently, they are making baby packets for two inner-city clinics. For more information, email Dottie at [dottiebrock65@gmail.com](mailto:dottiebrock65@gmail.com).

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/events](http://lmpc.org/events).*

## **JOIN US ON REALM CONNECT:**

- Communicate with your groups and teams
- Register easily for popular events
- Access our online church directory
- Update your contact and personal information, including photo
- Manage your church giving and pledging

Find more details on how to join and use Realm Connect at [lmpc.org/realm](https://lmpc.org/realm).

For additional help with Realm Connect, or to request an account, email Katie Holstege at [katie@lmpc.org](mailto:katie@lmpc.org).