



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 10, 2023 | Sanctuary Service

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Prelude

*“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #535)*

Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Introit

*“O God, We Praise Thee”
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #105)* Chancel Choir

* Call to worship

based on Isaiah 25

Leader: O LORD, you are our God; we will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

All: You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

Leader: On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

All: The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. In that day we will say, “Surely, this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!”

* Hymn of praise 38

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

text by Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; traditional Welsh hymn melody, JOANNA

*** Prayer of adoration and the Lord's prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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

Offertory

"This Little Light of Mine"

Chancel Choir

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

My light reflects the love of Jesus, his love, his life so freely giv'n.
A gift of love and light for my salvation,
Light of the world, now shine through me.

Wherever I may go, I'm going to let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

African-American spiritual, additional verse by Ronald Turner; traditional tune, arr. Ronald Turner, 2000

*** Gloria Patri 735**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*** Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

⁴⁹"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

⁵⁷"And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny."

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

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Discerning the Times"
Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The reality of distress in Jesus (vv. 49-50)
2. The inevitability of division because of Jesus (vv. 51-53)
3. The urgency for discernment concerning Jesus (vv. 54-59)

Pastoral prayer

This morning we celebrate the Lord's Supper. This celebration is a sacred time during which God's people enjoy communion with him and unity with each other. We believe that the Lord's Supper is meant for the body of Christ as a gathered, corporate reality and not merely for personal or individual edification. For this reason, the livestream is ending at the conclusion of the sermon and will not include the celebration of the sacrament.

Musicians for this week:

William Darby – soloist
David Fray – cello
Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ, piano
Patricia Nagle – violin

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TONIGHT FOR OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING, we will have a time of prayer devoted to the missionaries supported by LMPC. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's Build-a-Bag collection for the Salvation Army. We collected a total of 285 bags for their area food pantry!

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.

AARON TOLSON AND CHAD MIDDLEBROOKS will be installed as our new associate pastors during the Sunday Evening Gathering communion service on September 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Nursery will be provided.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24. Please visit 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. Questions? Email nominations@lmpc.org.

STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNICATION AND GROW YOUR RELATIONSHIP! Couples, come to The Marriage Course, held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for seven weeks, beginning September 26. The cost is \$50 and dessert is provided. You and your spouse will be seated at a table to discuss the video course only with each other. Even a great marriage can be better. Register on Realm Connect by Sunday, September 24.

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! Please register on Realm Connect by September 20, and let us know if you are bringing a friend.

IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING FIRES in Lahaina, Maui, the Home Missions Committee has made a donation to disaster response efforts to assist with relief. For more information, please visit pcamna.org/maui-fires.

To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit lmpc.org/events.

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- Communicate with your groups and teams
- Register easily for popular events
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- 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.

For additional help with Realm Connect, or to request an account, email Katie Holstege at katie@lmpc.org.