



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 17, 2023 | Fellowship Hall Service

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

* Call to worship

from Isaiah 40

Leader: The sovereign LORD sits enthroned above the circle of the earth.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy. Lift up your eyes and
look to the heavens: Who created all these?

**All: He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each
by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one
of them is missing.**

Leader: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**All: He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can
fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of
the weak.**

* Hymn of praise

“From All That Dwell below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise;
let the Redeemer’s name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
text by Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 117; music by John Hatton, 1793

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

1 John 1:8-2:1

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make
him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children,
I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have
one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Hymn of confession

“To Thee I Come”

To thee I come, a sinner poor, and wait for mercy at thy door;
indeed, I've nowhere else to flee; O God, be merciful to me.
To thee I come, a sinner weak, and scarce know how to pray or speak;
from fear and weakness set me free; O God, be merciful to me!

To thee I come, a sinner vile; upon me, Lord, vouchsafe to smile;
mercy through blood I make my plea; O God, be merciful to me.
To thee I come, a sinner great, and well thou knowest all my state;
yet full forgiveness is with thee; O God, be merciful to me!

To thee I come, a sinner lost, nor have I aught wherein to trust;
but where thou art, Lord, I would be; O God, be merciful to me.
To glory bring me, Lord, at last, and there, when all my sins are past,
with all the saints I'll then agree: O, God was merciful to me!

O, God was merciful to me!

text by Samuel Medley, 1738-1799; music by Clint Wells, 2006

Prayer of confession

Leader: Lord, you have shown us true humility by becoming one of us.

All: Yet too often we are arrogant and value self-preservation above all else.

Leader: You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem.

All: Yet too often we rush past the pain of others or assign your judgment to them.

Leader: You loved those who were weak, despised, and cast out.

All: Yet too often we focus our love on those who are strong, respected, and popular.

Leader: You freely forgave and healed.

All: Yet too often we hold grudges and cause more destruction than healing.

Leader: You lived a perfectly holy life and sought to do the will of your heavenly Father.

All: Yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness or desire our Father's will be done.

Leader: You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

All: Yet too often we blend into our culture or hide from it.

Leader: Forgive us Lord,

**All: that we might declare your praises, you who brought us out of
darkness and into your wonderful light.**

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and 1 Peter 2:9b

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

Hebrews 10:10b-14

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

* Hymn of assurance

“Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me;
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

text by Charitie Lees Bancroft, 1863; music by Vikki Cook, 1997

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

Offertory hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

text by Isaac Watts, 1707; music from traditional English melody, O WALY WALY

* Scripture reading from Luke 13:1-9

Rachel Adams

¹There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. We cannot measure human condition according to circumstances: repent. (vv. 1-5)
2. We must not assume God’s mercy has no deadline: repent. (vv. 6-9)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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 God’s unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:
here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.
text by Robert Robinson, 1758; music by Asahel Nettleton, 1825

* **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.**

* **Postlude**

Musicians for this week:

Xaris Emmett – violin
Ellie Henry – vocals
Hannah Lutz – viola
Matthew Mindeman – vocals

John Reeder – piano
Christley Vaughn – vocals
Chapman Whitted – guitar

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TONIGHT FOR OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING, join us for a communion service in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, Aaron Tolson and Chad Middlebrooks will be installed as our new associate pastors. Nursery will be provided. To see the Sunday Evening Gathering schedule, please visit lmpc.org/sundaynight.

NEW, DOWNLOAD LMPC SERMONS via your podcast app. Find sermons uploaded weekly at “From the Pulpit: Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church” and download them to listen on the go. Subscribe so that you never miss a sermon, in the same way that you can subscribe to LMPC’s podcast, Pillar & Ground. Also new this fall, enjoy Confessions episodes on Pillar & Ground in a discussion-based format as pastors Brian Salter and Wil Nettleton talk through our Westminster Confession of Faith. Have ideas for future podcast episodes? Submit at lmpc.org/podcast or in the box in the fellowship hall lobby.

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.

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.

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.

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.

COLLEGE STUDENTS, join us for lunch on Sunday, October 1 at 12:15 p.m. at the Jane Harris Youth Building and learn how to get connected at LMPC.

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
- 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.

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