



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 17, 2023 | **Sanctuary Service** | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO LMPC! *We're so glad you are with us today. Please use the welcome card from the pew rack in front of you to share important information with us; an online form is available by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you **silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship** so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God.*

CHILDCARE: *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to the crayons and activity sheets relevant to today's sermon that are provided for children each week.*

** Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Prelude

"Let All Things Now Living"

arr. David Lowe

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #125)

Welcome and announcements

Frank Hitchings, senior associate 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 100

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

* Prayer of adoration

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.

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

Choral prayer

“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”

Chancel Choir

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever.

text from Latin hymn; translated and adapted by Theodore Baker, 1899; music from The Seven Last Words of Christ, by Théodore Dubois, 1867, ADORE THEE

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 455, vv. 1, 3, 5

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

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

Offertory

“Grace”

Chancel Choir

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; I once was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already safely come;
this grace hath brought me safe thus far, and surely grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the glorious sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than since the day we first begun.

text adapted from John Newton, 1779; traditional Celtic melody, arr. Mark Hayes, 1993

* 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.**

* **Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

* **Scripture reading from Luke 13:1-9**

p. 1037 in the pew Bible and text printed in the bulletin

Denny Wise (9:30)

Ralph Hill (11:00)

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"

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministry

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response**

"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Make our love, O God, more faithful, let us take you at your word;
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

text by Frederick William Faber, 1862; music by John Stainer, 1887, WYCLIFF

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

"Threefold Amen"

* **Postlude**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #604)

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director

David Henry – trumpet

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Luke 13:1-9

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.'"

SERMON NOTES

"A Wideness in God's Mercy"

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)

Further Up, Further In,
Resources for
Continued Study



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.

TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, September 17

9:30 a.m.	Worship service	sanctuary & fellowship hall
9:30 a.m.	Sunday school for adults.....	Conference Room
10:30 a.m.	Elders available to pray for your needs	Brian Salter's office
11:00 a.m.	Worship service	sanctuary & fellowship hall
11:00 a.m.	Sunday school for adults, youth, & children.....	various locations
4:00 p.m.	Middle school small groups	various locations
6:00 p.m.	Sunday Evening Gathering with communion & installation	fellowship hall
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group	JHYB

Additional seating for the sanctuary services is available in the chapel.

For more events this week, visit 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.

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

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



OUR MISSION

*Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away
on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.*

CONTACT US

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

Web: lmpc.org

Email: info@lmpc.org

Phone: 423.821.4528

Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services and in the evening on the third Sunday of every month. Devices to amplify sound are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.