



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

## *Presbyterian Church*

### IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*O Lord, seek us, O Lord, find us in thy patient care;  
Be thy love before, behind us, round us, everywhere:  
Lest the god of this world blind us, lest he speak us fair,  
Lest he forge a chain to bind us, lest he bait a snare.  
Turn not from us, call to mind us, find, embrace us, bear;  
Be thy love before, behind us, round us, everywhere.*

OCTOBER 8, 2023 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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### Prelude

“This Is My Father’s World”

*arr. John Behnke*

*(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #111)*

### Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

### Introit

“Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns”

Chancel Choir

*(words may be found in your hymnal, #369)*

### \* Call to worship

based on Psalm 36 and Psalm 145

**Leader:** Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

**All:** O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love!

**Leader:** Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. For with you is the fountain of life.

**All:** All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

### \* Hymn of praise 76, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless;  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glorious in his faithfulness.

Frail as summer’s flow’r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
but while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High Eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space,  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.  
*text based on Psalm 103 by Henry F. Lyte, 1834; music by John Goss, 1869, LAUDA ANIMA*

## \* Prayer of adoration

### Affirmation of faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, question one

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **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 the tyranny 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 my Father 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.**

### Call to confession

from Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him. Let him turn to our God, for he will freely pardon.

### Hymn of confession

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and pow’r.

*Refrain:* I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. *Refrain*

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all. *Refrain*  
*text by Joseph Hart, 1759; music from Walker’s Southern Harmony, 1835*

### Silent prayers of confession

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace we have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**\* Hymn of assurance**

“I Am Not Skilled to Understand”

I am not skilled to understand what God has willed, what God has planned;  
I only know at his right hand is One who is my Savior!

I take him at his word indeed: “Christ died for sinners,” this I read;  
for in my heart I find a need of him to be my Savior!

Yes, living, dying, let me bring my strength, my solace from this spring;  
that he who lives to be my King once died to be my Savior!

*text by Dora Greenwell, 1873; English folk song, 18th c., O WALLY WALLY*

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

**Offertory**

“The Meditations of My Heart”

Chancel Choir

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,  
O Lord my God and Redeemer.  
O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength  
O Lord my Redeemer.

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,  
O Lord my God and Redeemer.  
O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,  
O Lord my Redeemer. O Lord my Redeemer. O Lord.  
*text based on Psalm 19:14; music by Elaine Hagenberg, 2017*

**\* 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 13:22–30**

Chad Middlebrooks

<sup>22</sup>He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them,

<sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’

<sup>28</sup>“In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

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

**Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word**

**Sermon**

**“An Urgent Response to an Ultimate Question”**

Jim Richter, honorably retired PCA pastor

1. Jesus graciously receives a curious question. (vv. 22-23)
2. Jesus compassionately redirects toward an urgent, personal need. (vv. 24-27)
3. Jesus surprisingly illustrates the ultimate question. (vv. 28-30)

**Pastoral prayer**

**\* Hymn of response**

**“In Christ There Is No East or West”**

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth; the  
2. It is by grace we are as - sured that we be - long to him; he  
3. So, bro - thers, sis - ters, praise his name who died to set us free from  
4. In Christ there is no east or west; he breaks all bar - riers down; by

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cho - sen fam - 'ly God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.  
re - con - ciled us through his Son and met us with his grace.  
sin, di - vi - sion, hate, and shame, from spite and en - mi - ty.  
Christ re - deemed, by Christ pos - sessed, in Christ we live as one.

*text by Michael Perry, 1942-1996; music by Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836, ST. PETER*

**\* Benediction**

**\* Congregational response**

**“Threefold Amen”**

**\* Postlude**

**Voluntary on “Hymn to Joy”**

*Michael Burkhardt*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Joy Gibbons** – director

**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

**Celebrating the baptisms** of Charlotte Joyce Kaufmann and Michael Auten Kaufmann at the 9:30 service in the fellowship hall today are their parents, Rachel and David Kaufmann, and their grandparents, Shari and Roger Collins and Mary and Stephen Kaufmann.

**Celebrating the baptism** of Shiloh Rae Regan at the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall today are her parents, Raeanne and Kevin Regan, and her grandparents, Laurie and Ron Gialanella and Lynn and Brian Regan.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Christopher Douglas Wright**

November 13, 1984 – September 29, 2023

*Text on cover attributed to: Christina Rossetti*

**GIVING UPDATE THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023**

**Annual Budget:** \$5,641,820

**Giving YTD:** \$2,812,469

**Remaining Gifts Needed:** \$2,829,351 (50% of budget)

**Outstanding Pledge Balance:** \$822,938

**Unpledged Giving Need:** \$2,006,413

We're grateful for the generosity at LMPC so far this year. As we are currently about 8% (or \$256,000) behind last year's giving, please consider contributing toward the 2023 budget if you haven't yet this year. You can find multiple ways to give to LMPC at [lmpc.org/give](http://lmpc.org/give).

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CRITICAL NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS.** Our Wednesday Night Kids' Club must grow their team of volunteers in order to continue offering this valuable program each week. Could you be an extra set of helping hands in a classroom, be a one-on-one buddy for an individual child, or substitute on occasion when a regular volunteer can't make it? Please email Director of Children's Ministry Brennan Griffin at [brennan@lmpc.org](mailto:brennan@lmpc.org) if you are interested in supporting this ministry. Screening/training required.

**LMPC'S NEW BLOG, EVERYDAY FAITH,** launched this week at [lmpc.org](http://lmpc.org). Look for new articles regularly on a variety of topics relevant to your spiritual life, church life, and our culture. This week, read Pastor Brian Salter's article, "We Are All Undergoing Renovation." Part of our vision at LMPC is to equip disciples biblically and extend resources generously. Benefit personally and share with others by engaging with our three regularly released publications: the new Everyday Faith blog, Pillar & Ground podcast, and From the Pulpit (weekly sermons now found wherever you get your podcasts).

**"THE BRIDGE" IS A GATHERING OF WOMEN** of all ages coming together to fellowship and hear how God has been at work in the lives of our LMPC women. On Thursday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m., Lee Ballenger and Charlotte Lindeman will share how God has met them in the midst of grief, disappointment, and broken dreams. Dinner will be provided for \$10. Please register via Realm Connect by Tuesday, October 17.

**LMPC MEN, JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST** on Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall where we will enjoy a time of prayer together. No registration required.

**THE REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL** is Sunday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. Meet at First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga as we observe Reformation Day with brothers and sisters throughout the the Tennessee Valley Presbytery. Combined choirs and orchestra from multiple churches will lead the congregation in great hymns of the faith, and foundational readings and Scripture will remind us of the significance of Reformation Day.

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