



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out toward God,
with nothing to offer and everything to receive.*

OCTOBER 29, 2023 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able.

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

* **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**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

text based on Psalm 46, by Martin Luther, 1529; music by Martin Luther, 1529

*** Prayer of adoration**

*** Affirmation of faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call to confession

Romans 3:23-24

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Hymn of confession

“Come, O Redeemer, Come”

Father enthroned on high, holy, holy;
ancient, eternal Light, hear our prayer.

Refrain: Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark of our striving,
faithless, troubled hearts weighed down. *Refrain*

Look now upon our need; Lord be with us.

Heal us and make us free from our sin. *Refrain*

text and music by Fernando Ortega © 1996 Metro One, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

Prayer of confession

Leader: Merciful God, we confess to you that we have sinned.

All: We confess the sins that no one knows and the sins that everyone knows. We confess the sins that are a burden to us and the sins that do not bother us because we have grown used to them.

Leader: We confess our sins as a church.

All: We have not loved one another as Christ loved us. We have not forgiven one another as we have been forgiven. We have not given ourselves in love and service for the world as Christ gave himself to us.

Leader: Father, forgive us.

All: May your Holy Spirit give us power to live as, by your mercy, you have called us to live. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.
Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Louis

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on John 3 and 1 Peter 3

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. He has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

* Hymn of assurance

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*
text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

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

Offertory hymn

“My Worth Is Not in What I Own”

My worth is not in what I own, not in the strength of flesh and bone,
but in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name, in win or lose, in pride or shame,
but in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Refrain: I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in him, no other; my soul is satisfied in him alone.

As summer flowers, we fade and die; fame, youth, and beauty hurry by,
but life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light,
but I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. *Refrain*

Two wonders here that I confess: my worth and my unworthiness;
my value fixed—my ransom paid at the cross. *Refrain*
text and music by Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty ©2014 Getty Music ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

*** Scripture reading from Luke 14:12-24**

Tabitha Kapic

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

¹⁵When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

¹⁸“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ ¹⁹And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ ²⁰And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

²¹“So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’

²²And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“The Parable of the Great Banquet”
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. A gracious invitation to the Great Kingdom Banquet (vv. 15–17)
2. An outrageous rejection by religious insiders (vv. 18–20)
3. An unexpected offer to religious outsiders (vv. 21–24)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response**

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

We will not be burned by the fire. He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
upheld, protected, gathered up.

Refrain: We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid.
For the promised morning, O how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength. *Refrain*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed. You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
bind us together, bring shalom. *Refrain*

text and music by Joshua Moore and Sandra McCracken © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music, 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.**

*** Postlude**

Musicians for this week:

Seth Bergeron – vocals
Evelyn Brandes – violin
Charley Crichton – bass
David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola
Jenna McClure – vocals
Christley Vaughn – vocals
Bob Wharton – piano

The rosebuds in the service today are for the births of Isla Victoria Carter Dahms, born to Emily and Logan Dahms on October 18, and Estelle Lorraine Currin, born to Kellie and Hank Currin on October 19.

Celebrating the baptisms of Elizabeth Grace Dyer and Charlie William Dyer at the 9:30 service in the sanctuary today are their parents, Alicia and Trey Dyer, and their grandparents, Connie and Dwayne Daniels and Diann and Lee Dyer.

IN MEMORIAM

Peter V. Platt

April 25, 1930 – October 26, 2023

RENEW COMMITMENT CARDS

RENEW includes a four-year capital campaign to raise \$17.3 million to fund the physical restoration and renovation of our space. In the fall of 2021, over 300 LMPC families made three-year commitments (2022, 2023, 2024). Last fall, many families extended their commitment for a fourth year (2025). These commitments have resulted in over \$11 million in RENEW pledges, almost 70% of our goal.

We are nearing the halfway point of the campaign, with interior renovations and construction of a new building scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024. Copies of the RENEW Fall 2023 Update are available in the Narthex or fellowship hall lobby, or by scanning the QR code. Anyone who has not yet given has an opportunity now to pledge by using the new commitment cards that will be available after each service. See an usher to pick one up and make a pledge. Instructions are on the cards.



RENEW Update

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Annual Budget: \$5,641,820

Giving YTD: \$3,182,386

Remaining Gifts Needed: \$2,459,434 (44% of budget)

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$530,290

Unpledged Giving Need: \$1,929,144

We're grateful for the generosity at LMPC so far this year. As we are currently about 5% (or \$185,000) 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.

RECEIVE LMPC'S WEEKLY NEWS EMAIL

Don't miss out on upcoming church events, building updates, resources, and other news. Stay informed by contacting onrealm@lmpc.org to update your email preferences.

Text on cover attributed to: John Calvin

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL is today at 6:00 p.m. This is our Sunday Evening Gathering, but will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga. Combined choirs and orchestra from multiple churches will lead the congregation in great hymns of the faith and foundational readings.

LEFT BEHIND: Please look through the “lost and found” items that have accumulated and claim your belongings from the tables and racks in the breezeway outside the fellowship hall entrance. Items remaining after November 1 will be donated.

AS WE CONSIDER YEAR-END GIVING to the annual budget, as well as to the RENEW campaign, our pastors have made available a five-day devotional resource, “Gifts for a King,” examining generosity to Jesus. Please prayerfully consider how God would have you steward your resources. We have a limited number of print copies of this booklet from the PCA Foundation available in the Narthex and fellowship hall lobby; it is also available electronically using this QR code.



GRIEF IS HARDER AROUND THE HOLIDAYS. Find support with the GriefShare seminar, “Surviving the Holidays,” and get practical tips for navigating the season after loss. Register on Realm Connect for this event on Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m.

A SPECIAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY MISSIONS REPORT is coming on Sunday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. Join us for a time of family fun and fellowship as we hear from Dr. Ananthi Jebasingh with Friends of the Good Samaritans School in India. Activities will be available for children before, during, and after the report. Nursery provided for children ages 0-3. Light refreshments will be served.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 23-40) FRIENDSGIVING will be held at Mary and Wil Nettleton’s home on Thursday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. The Nettletons will provide the turkey and ham; bring a side or dessert to share. This is an adults-only event. Please register on Realm Connect by Monday, November 6. (*Note new date and time.)

ANTICIPATE ADVENT at a women’s evening gathering on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will have dessert and decaf, assemble advent wreaths, and hear from a panel of LMPC women on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus. Please register on Realm Connect by November 14. Cost is \$10.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SERVE THE CITY: Boxes of Blessing on Saturday, December 2. All ages are welcome to serve together for this large-scale ministry project assembling food boxes for the greater Chattanooga community. More information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A PARENTING CONFERENCE on March 1 and 2, 2024. We will welcome Dr. John L. Cox, author of *Setting Parents Free*.