



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“The more fundamental question is whether you live your life for the Lord and the gospel,
or whether the Lord and the gospel are there to give you a better life.”*

— J. Elem (Chinese House Church pastor)

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Elegy”
Anton Wilhelm Leupold

Welcome and greetings

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 145

Leader: Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

All: One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

Leader: All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.

All: They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all may know of your mighty acts. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

* **Hymn of praise 358, vv. 1, 2, 3, 6**

“For All the Saints”

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor’s crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

text by William Walsham How, 1864, 1875; music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, SINE NOMINE

* Prayer of adoration

Prayer for the persecuted church

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

All: This morning, we pray for those members of your flock whose lives and ministries are oppressed.

Leader: Show your great mercies to our brothers and sisters who are persecuted, cast in prison, and daily condemned to death for the testimony of your truth. We ask that, though they are utterly destitute from the aid of men, your sweet comfort will never depart from them. Rather, enflame their hearts with your Holy Spirit that they may boldly and faithfully abide such trials as your godly wisdom may appoint, so that the Kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ may increase and shine through all the world.

All: Teach us to taste and see your eternal goodness as we face our own weaknesses and hardships—never forgetting that your grace is sufficient for us and your power is made perfect in weakness. May opportunities abound to share with others your great love found at the cross, and may the church here and around the world be refreshed by your sustaining power, to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.

adapted from "A Prayer for the Whole Estate of Christ's Church," included in a worship service written by John Knox, Geneva, 1556; 2 Corinthians 1:3, 12:9-10; Ephesians 1:6

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

Offertory

"All Things New"

Chancel Choir

Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross,
sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wand'ring, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new.

Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.

Sight after myst'ry, sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain,
near after distant, gleam after gloom, love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new.
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.
He is making all things new.

text by Frances Havergal and music by Elaine Hagenberg © 2021 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. CCLI Lic. #152036

*** 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**

*** Scripture reading from Luke 14:25-35**

Frank Hitchings

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?

³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“The Cost of Discipleship” Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. Clarification about discipleship: There is no discipleship without a cross. (vv. 25-27)
2. Illustrations for discipleship: There is no discipleship without cost. (vv. 28-33)
3. Implication: Count the eternal cost of *not* following Jesus. (vv. 34-35)

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:

David Fray – cello
Joy Gibbons – director, piano

Joshua Knight – organ, piano
Harrison Wells – trumpet

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Centuries ago, believers developed what is now known as the “Calendar of the Church Year.” It was designed to assist both unlearned and illiterate believers in mastering the truths of the Kingdom of God by causing them to “walk through” the events of redemptive history. All Saints' Day, November 1, was chosen to call all believers to remember the faithful saints who had already finished their race and gone home to heaven. On All Saints' Sunday we join the historic practice and recall the lives of our members who have gone on to glory in the past year.

Virginia Cross — January 6, 2023
Robert Marshall — January 14, 2023
Betty McGee — March 20, 2023
Pat Monroe — April 2, 2023
Ansley Moses — March 12, 2023

Peter Platt — October 26, 2023
Lenny Snow — May 28, 2023
Ellen Thompson — December 7, 2022
Barb Vermeer — May 3, 2023
Chris Wright — September 29, 2023

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR OUR MISSIONARIES tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel for our Sunday Evening Gathering. There will be an emphasis on prayer for the persecuted church.

RENEW COMMITMENT CARDS are available in the fellowship hall lobby and Narthex display racks for anyone who has not yet had the chance to pledge or give. To increase a commitment or inquire about a current commitment, please contact our Director of Finance & Operations, Margaret Lowery, at margaretlowery@lmpc.org.

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.

GATHER YOUR LEAF BLOWERS, RAKES, GLOVES, SHEARS, AND WHEELBARROWS to clean up around the church! The deacons invite everyone to the Annual Fall Church Work Day on Saturday, November 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until noon. Tasks include leaf collection, weeding, and vine removal. Donuts and drinks will be available for volunteers. The whole church family is encouraged to come and participate.

A SPECIAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY MISSIONS REPORT is planned for 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. Children's activities and light refreshments available and nursery provided.

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 fresh advent wreaths, and hear from a panel of LMPC women about how we can prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus. Please register on Realm Connect by November 14. Cost is \$10.

SERVE THE CITY: BOXES OF BLESSING is a large-scale ministry project that partners with volunteers, ministries, and churches to provide food for families in need. LMPC is taking on the challenge this year on Saturday, December 2! We need many hands to assemble boxes at the Chattanooga Bakery; all ages are welcome. Once assembled, boxes will be distributed through local ministry partners, schools, and non-profits. Register on Realm Connect for either a 9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. time slot.

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

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.

UPDATE YOUR REALM CONNECT PHOTO

Did you know you can update your profile picture in Realm Connect? Keeping your photo current helps staff and church members, especially newcomers, feel more connected. Update your photo by logging in, going to More → your current photo or initials → My Profile → then tapping the pencil next to your picture at the top of the screen to either take a photo or choose one from your device. Need help? Contact onrealm@lmpc.org for assistance.