



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*I bless thee for the throne of grace, that here free favor reigns;
that open access to it is through the blood of Jesus;
that the veil is torn aside and I can enter the holiest and find thee ready to hear,
waiting to be gracious, inviting me to pour out my needs,
encouraging my desires, promising to give more than I ask or think.
– from “The Lord’s Day,” The Valley of Vision*

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. Keith Kolander

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #120)

Welcome and announcements

Joe Donnovin, ruling elder

* Call to worship

based on Ephesians 1:3-18

Leader: All glorious God, we give you thanks, for in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

All: You chose us, before the creation of the world, to be your people, holy and blameless in your sight. In love, you predestined us to be adopted as your children through Jesus Christ. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Leader: You have made known to us the mystery of your will, to bring all things in heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

All: All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

* Hymn of praise 715, vv. 1, 3, 4

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.
text by Henry Alford, 1844, 1867; music by George J. Elvey, 1859, ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*** Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

from 1 John 1 and 2

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 500, vv. 1, 2, 3

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
text by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776; music by James Ward, 1984, NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from 1 John 4

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

* Hymn of assurance

“My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness”

1. My_ heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my pain; who_
2. My_ heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be-side; who_
3. My_ heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a-bove, whose
plumbed the depths of my dis-grace and gave me life a-gain; who_
floods my weak-ness-es with strength and caus-es fears to fly; whose
wis-dom is my per-fect peace, whose ev-'ry thought is love. For_
crushed my curse of sin-ful-ness, and clothed me in his light, and_
ev-'ry pro-mise is e-nough for ev-'ry step I take, sus-
ev-'ry day I have on earth is gi-ven by the King; so_
wrote his law of right-eous-ness with pow'r u-pon my heart.
tain-ing me with arms of love and crown-ing me with grace.
I will give my life, my all, to love and fol-low him.

text and music Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic.# 152036

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

Offertory

“Amazing Grace”

Chancel Choir

Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!
The Son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!
The Son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.

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

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!

The Son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.

*text by John Newton and Craig Courtney; music by Craig Courtney © 2004, 2013 Beckenhorst Press,
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*** 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 15:11-32**

Joe Donnovin

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'"'

²⁰"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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 Forgiving Father”

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The younger brother’s ruin and return (vv. 11–19)
2. The father’s extravagant response (vv. 20–24)
3. The elder brother’s scornful response and ultimate dilemma (vv. 25–32)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 457**

“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, NETTLETON

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“Marche Triomphale: Nun danket alle Gott”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Musicians for this week:

David Fray – cello

Joy Gibbons – director

David Henry – trumpet, guitar

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Cindy Solfest-Wallis – flute

Celebrating the baptism of Isabella Orcelia Garriott at the 9:30 service in the fellowship hall today are her parents, Amber and Calvin Garriott, and her grandparents, Marilyn and Bill Stull and Maria and Craig Garriott.

NEW SUNDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE SERIES

What does a godly life look like? One of the most famous passages in the Bible addresses that question: Galatians 5:22-23—better known as, “the fruit of the Spirit.” The Apostle Paul lists nine qualities that comprise the singular fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Join us on the third Sunday evening of each month as we come to the Lord’s table together and study the qualities that make up the mosaic of the lives of those who are united to Christ, indwelt by his Holy Spirit, and being more conformed into the image of the Son: the fruit of the Spirit.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME BACK TONIGHT at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary as we celebrate communion during our Sunday Evening Gathering. We are beginning a new series on the fruit of the Spirit.

COME AND HEAR OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIRS SING on Wednesday, November 29 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary as they share "Songs of the Season." Following the program, join us for Family Night, including pizza and bingo in the fellowship hall; no reservations are required but regular dinner fees apply.

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; all ages are welcome. Once assembled, boxes will be distributed through local ministry partners, schools, and non-profits. Register on Realm Connect.

SAVE THE DATES for our Christmas Hymn Sing on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. and our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. These annual times of worship during Advent are always greatly anticipated.

THE VIP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, December 5. Join us at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for entertainment and a delicious meal. Make your reservation before December 1 on Realm Connect, or call the church office; cost is \$6. *The VIPs are a group of mostly retired adults who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.*

ALL WOMEN OF LMPC are invited to celebrate the Christmas season together at Canopy on Tuesday, December 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Snacks are provided; no registration is required.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT INTRO TO LMPC class held on January 19-21. Registration is now open on Realm Connect.

PAID TEACHER'S AIDE AND SUBSTITUTE positions will be available in LMPC's Mother's Day Out program starting January 2024. Come join our great group of women from all walks of life who are passionate about loving and caring for children while teaching them and sharing God's Word. Contact MDO Director Megan DeMoss at megan@lmpc.org.

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

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023

Annual Budget: \$5,641,820

Giving YTD: \$3,541,023

Remaining Gifts Needed: \$2,100,797 (37% of budget)

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$405,775

Unpledged Giving Need: \$1,695,022

We're grateful for the generosity at LMPC so far this year. As we are currently 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.

JOIN REALM CONNECT

Do you have a Realm Connect account? Join our invitation-only networking site to access the LMPC online directory, manage giving, register for events, and fill out your Serving profile. Request your account today by visiting lmpc.org/realm.