



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Father, what we know not, teach us;
what we have not, give us;
what we are not, make us.
- Old Anglican Prayer*

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able.

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 36 and Lamentations 3

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.

All: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

* **Hymn of praise**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine, to the world so freely giv'n,
agent of God's grand design: peace on earth and joy in heav'n,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

text by Follitt Pierpoint, 1864; music by Conrad Kocher, 1838

* **Prayer of adoration**

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

from Colossians 3

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

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

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**

“Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me;
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

text by Charitie Lees Bancroft, 1863; music by Vikki Cook, 1997

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

Offertory hymn

“May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do and all I say.
May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.
May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.
May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.
text by Kate Wilkinson, 1925; music by DH, 2016

*** Scripture reading from Luke 16:1-9**

Emmie Thompson

¹He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

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 Shrewd Manager”
Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. The parable: A clever manager, facing imminent trouble, takes resolute action. (vv. 1-8a)
2. An observation: The people of the world are far more focused on their goal than are the people of the light. (v. 8b)
3. The exhortation: Disciples must creatively and decisively use our resources for the Kingdom as we anticipate eternal welcome. (v. 9)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

text by Frances Havergal, 1874; music by Henri César Malan, 1827

* 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:

Eleanor Caines – vocals

Grady Dickinson – alto saxophone

Calvin Garriott – piano

David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola

Hannah Perry – vocals

Celebrating the baptism of Evelyn Melanie Ray at the 9:30 service in the sanctuary today are her parents, Melanie and Ben Ray, and her grandparents, Diane and Paul Terpstra and Terri and Phillip Ray, and her great-grandmother, Kathleen Stevens.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

THANK YOU TO ALL REGISTERED FOR BOXES OF BLESSING! Due to the great response, we have created a waitlist on Realm Connect, for both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. shifts. Sign up if interested. For those already registered, if your plans have changed and you must cancel your shift, please email Missions Coordinator Stephanie Young, stephanie@lmpc.org, or cancel your registration on Realm Connect.

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.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS to be placed in the sanctuary or fellowship hall in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit Realm Connect to submit and contribute online, or contact the church office. The last day to make your request is Friday, December 8.

IF YOUR FAMILY OR SMALL GROUP WOULD ENJOY CAROLING on December 17 to LMPC members who cannot join us for Christmas services, please register through Realm Connect or email Paula, paula@lmpc.org, no later than December 10. Contact the church office if you have questions.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE, our morning worship services are moved to the following times: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Please join us for one of these Lord's Day worship services in the sanctuary.

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.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS will be held January 19-21; register on Realm Connect by January 8.

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

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Evelyn Melanie Ray born to Melanie and Ben Ray on November 14.

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.

ADVENT 2023

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

nursery available

Sunday, December 3

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

Sunday, December 10

4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 17

5:00 p.m. in the community

CHRISTMAS EVE*

Sunday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. only

3:00, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

**Please join us for one of these Lord's Day worship services; our morning services have been moved to these times.*