



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God, our hope and our desire, we wait for your coming
as a woman longs for the birth, the exile for her home,
the lover for his beloved, and the humble poor for justice.*

—The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers

DECEMBER 3, 2023 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE • 9:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO LMPC! *We're so glad you are with us today. Please scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to share important information with us through an online form. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God. We encourage you to read the text on the front of the bulletin as we prepare to worship together.*

CHILDCARE: *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to crayons and children's bulletins.*

** Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

* Call to worship

from Psalm 33

Leader: Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

All: **For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unflinching love.**

Leader: Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

All: **We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unflinching love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.**

* Hymn of praise

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
text by Charles Wesley (1744) and Mark Hunt (1978); music by Rowland Pritchard, 1855

* Prayer of adoration

Lighting the candle of hope

from Isaiah 40 and Jeremiah 33

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for. "Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land, and he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

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

Offertory hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

continued

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Latin, 12th century, translated by John Mason Neale, 1851; Plainsong, 13th century

*** Scripture reading from Genesis 21:1-7**

text printed in the bulletin

Marianne Stern (9:30)
Margaret Stewart (11:00)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Miraculous Births: Isaac”
Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministries

Pastoral prayer

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.

Hymn of confession

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

text by Phillips Brooks, 1868; music by Lewis Redner, 1868

Silent prayers of confession

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Words of institution

Communion affirmation

Leader: O the unspeakable mysteries and treasures of mercy that are presented to us in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper!

All: Here we have communion with God our Father who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Here we have communion with our blessed Redeemer, as crucified and glorified, and offered to us, as our quickening, preserving, strengthening Head.

Here we have communion with the Holy Spirit, applying to our souls the benefits of redemption, drawing us to the Son, communicating light, life, and strength from him unto us, and increasing his graces in us.

Here we have communion with the body of Christ, his sanctified people.

Leader: When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember the finished work of Christ, receive nourishment, and anticipate the glory to come.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*adapted from The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, vol. 10 and The New City Catechism
Devotional: God's Truth for Our Hearts and Minds*

Prayer of consecration

Distribution of the elements

Songs for meditation

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable, come, know you are not alone.
O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come see what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

continued

O come, bitter and broken, come, with fears unspoken, come, taste of his perfect love.
 O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run, see what your God has done.
 Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon;
 his promise is peace for those who believe. *(repeat)*

So come, though you have nothing, come, he is the off'ring,
 come, see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

text and music by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow © 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise, CCLI Lic. #152036

"There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem"

1. There_ blooms a rose in Beth - le - hem, from ten - der stem hath sprung. Of_

2. The_ glo - ries of the heav - ens sur - round - ed shep - herds bright. The_

3. This_ flow'r in bloom, a scent so sweet that greets us in the air. It_

Jes - se's line this flow - er_ grows as men of old have sung. I -

an - gels sang, a sign was_ shown, the Christ was born that night. What

has dis - pelled with hope - ful - ness the sting of death's de - spair. Fore -

sa - iah told us long a - go a - bout this rose we'd find;_ in_

mys - ter - y they came up - on, the sign the her - alds laud,_ in_

told, this rose was born to die, but would not see de - cay;_ so_

vir - gin arms, we shall be - hold the Sav - ior of man - kind.

man - ger slept the Ho - ly_ One, in flesh, the Son of God.

those who place their faith in_ him shall blos - som from the grave.

text and music by Neil DeGraide, 2014; arr. David Henry, 2017

* Prayer of thanksgiving

* Hymn of praise

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
 let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

text based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719; music by George F. Handel, 1742

*** 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:

Xaris Emmett – violin
David Henry – guitar, vocals
Ellie Henry – vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola
John Reeder – piano

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Richard James Bowers

March 28, 1946 – November 22, 2023

Genesis 21:1-7

¹The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ²And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

³Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: MIRACULOUS BIRTHS

The truth of Christmas is the story that ties together a thousand other stories in the Bible. As we read the Bible, we note that, time and time again, God brings hope to an impossible situation through a miraculous birth: Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist. Why? These miraculous births reveal clearly that future hope for humanity rests not on human power or human virtue but on God's power. Tim Chester notes, “The birth of Jesus is the ultimate sign that salvation is all God's work and not the result of human potency.” The reality of Jesus' virgin birth shapes how we think of our new birth and of the birth of the church—it is all by the supreme and gracious power of God. Our sermon series on miraculous births will show us that joy comes to a desperate people because of God's stunning provision in the midst of human impossibility. Indeed, as the angel told Mary, “Nothing is impossible with God.”

SERMON NOTES
“Miraculous Births: Isaac”
Genesis 21:1-7

1. A promise fulfilled: God always keeps his word. (vv. 1-2)

2. A faithful response: His people are to respond in wonder and obedience. (vv. 3-7)

Further Up, Further In,
Resources for
Continued Study



ADVENT 2023

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Sunday, December 3

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

nursery available

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 10

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

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 17

5:00 p.m. in the community (Register on Realm Connect.)

CHRISTMAS EVE*

Sunday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

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

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

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

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.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR CHRISTMAS HYMN SING is tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for our Sunday Evening Gathering. Nursery will be provided. Come and worship with us!

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 by December 8 to submit and contribute online, or contact the church office.

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

THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall on Sunday, December 10, for the purpose of approving a slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon for the class of 2027. Those men approved to stand for office will undergo training in the new year. The final election to office will take place in April 2024.

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.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS will be held January 19–21. We will meet Friday from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sunday during the Sunday school hour. If you are an adult who wants to join the church, or you would like to learn about what we believe, this class is for you. Register on Realm Connect by January 8.

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.

TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, December 3

9:30 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
9:30 a.m.	Sunday school for adults	Conference Room
10:30 a.m.	Elders available to pray for your needs	Brian Salter's office
11:00 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
11:00 a.m.	Sunday school for adults, youth, & children.....	various locations
4:00 p.m.	Middle school small groups.....	various locations
6:00 p.m.	Christmas Hymn Sing.....	fellowship hall
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group.....	JHYB

For more events this week, visit lmpc.org/events.

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.

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



OUR MISSION

*Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away
on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.*

CONTACT US

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350
Web: lmpc.org
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Phone: 423.821.4528

Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services and in the evening on the third Sunday of every month. Devices to amplify sound are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.