



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
*Presbyterian Church*

**IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

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*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 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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**Prelude**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”  
*arr. Michael Burkhardt*

**Welcome and greetings**

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

\* **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 unfailing 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 unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.**

\* **Hymn of praise 194, vv. 1, 3, 4, 5**

“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.

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 hymn, 1710, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; Plainsong, 13th cent., arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856,*

*VENI EMMANUEL*

## \* 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

"Walk in the Light"

Children's and Chancel Choirs

*Refrain:* We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! the herald angels sing, (Jesus, the Light of the world)

"Glory to the new-born King." (Jesus, the Light of the world) *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! (Jesus, the Light of the world)

Christ, the everlasting Lord! (Jesus, the Light of the world) *Refrain*

*text by George D. Elderkin and Charles Wesley; traditional spiritual, arr. André Thomas, 2005*

## \* 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

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

<sup>3</sup>Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup>And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." <sup>7</sup>And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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"

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

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)

#### **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.*

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#### **Musicians for this week:**

**Joy Gibbons** – director

**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

## IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Richard James Bowers

March 28, 1946 – November 22, 2023

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ellen Thompson by the Barkley and Chase families.

### 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."

### 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](http://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](mailto:megan@lmpc.org).

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/events](https://lmpc.org/events).*

# 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.*

## 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](mailto:onrealm@lmpc.org) for assistance.