



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Father, give me your renewing Spirit to be in me a principle of holy life,
and light, and love, and your seal and witness that I am yours.
Quicken my dead and hardened heart. Enlighten my dark, unbelieving mind.
Turn my will to the ready obedience of your holy will. Reveal to my soul
the wonders of your love in Christ, and fill it with love to you and my Redeemer. Amen.*
—Richard Baxter

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able.

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

* Call to worship

from Psalm 89

Leader: O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?

All: You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them. The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.

Leader: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

All: Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

* Hymn of praise

“Across the Lands”

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

Refrain: You're the Author of creation;
you're the Lord of ev'ry man;
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry; with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered, that the guilty may go free! *Refrain*

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven, leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father, interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation, you are leading sinners home! *Refrain*
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*** Prayer of adoration and the Lord's prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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

Offertory hymn

“Ancient of Days”

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,
there is still one King reigning over all.
So I will not fear, for this truth remains:
that my God is the Ancient of Days.

Refrain: None above him, none before him, all of time in his hands;
for his throne, it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory, I will trust in his name;
for my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul,
he is here with me; I am not alone.
O his love is sure, and he knows my name,
for my God is the Ancient of Days. *Refrain*

Though I may not see what the future brings,
I will watch and wait for the Savior King.
Then my joy complete, standing face to face,
in the presence of the Ancient of Days. *Refrain*
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*** Scripture reading from Luke 17:20-37**

James Stevens

²⁰Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

²²“And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³And they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them. ²⁴For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. ²⁵But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸“Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, ²⁹but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—

³⁰“so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. ³²Remember Lot’s wife. ³³Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

³⁴“I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. ³⁵There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“The Coming of the Kingdom”
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The “already” nature of the Kingdom of God: The Pharisees question *when* the Kingdom of God will arrive. (vv. 20–21)
 - Do not expect the Kingdom to fit your assumptions.
 - Do not miss the King who is in your midst.

2. The “not yet” nature of the Kingdom of God: The disciples question *how* the Kingdom of God will come. (vv. 22–37)
- The Kingdom’s arrival will be unmistakable, so do not be distracted. (vv. 22–24)
 - Suffering comes before the Kingdom will be fully ushered in. (vv. 22, 25)
 - Preoccupation with life’s activities causes Kingdom indifference. (vv. 26–33)
 - Proximity to those who are saved is insufficient. (vv. 34–37)

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.

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.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TONIGHT'S SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING will be a time of missionary prayer in the chapel at 6:00 p.m.

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER gives support through instruction, inspiration, and intercession. Meetings feature special presentations from professionals. These meetings are for you if you are caring for a loved one at home or at a distance, if your loved one is in an assisted living facility, or if you are making decisions about care. Join us in the Reception Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., or on Zoom. See all groups at lmpc.org/groups.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 23-40) are invited to the home of Mary and Wil Nettleton for a potluck dinner on February 11 at 6:00 p.m. Register on Realm Connect by Friday, February 9. Please bring a side dish for sharing (i.e. salad, dip/appetizer, or dessert) and the Nettletons will provide the main entrée. Adults only, please.

VIPS, JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON at Public House on Wednesday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. Registration is limited, so register early on Realm Connect or contact the church office by Friday, February 9. The cost for this event is \$20. *The VIPs are a group of mostly retired senior adults who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.*

WHAT DO KIDS NEED TO BECOME HEALTHY ADULTS? Dr. John L. Cox, author of *Setting Parents Free*, is our featured speaker for a two-session parenting seminar in the fellowship hall. Join us on Friday, March 1 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Register for one or both sessions on Realm Connect.

A COMMUNICANT CLASS for youth in grades 6-12 interested in joining LMPC will be offered March 1-3: Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Please register on Realm Connect by February 23. Email Margaret Compton with any questions at margaretcompton@lmpc.org. If you have an elementary student asking questions about church membership, please contact Brennan Griffin or Chad Middlebrooks to receive information about that process.

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