



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*O thou by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way,
the path of prayer thyself has trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray.
— J. Montgomery*

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”

arr. Calvin Taylor

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

* Call to worship

from 1 Chronicles 16

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

All: **Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise.

All: **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling place. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

* Hymn of praise 103, vv. 1, 2, 4

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth your scepter claim, all in heav’n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav’ns with sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord.”

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
while in essence only One, undivided God we claim you,
and adoring bend the knee, while we sing this mystery.
based on Te Deum, ca. 4th cent., tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853; music from Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, ca. 1774, GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

*** Prayer of adoration**

Missionary report

Call to confession

from Isaiah 30

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

from John 6

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.”

*** Hymn of assurance**

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas - ure, that
2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his shoul - ders; a -
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but

he should give his on - ly Son to make a wretch his treas - ure. How
shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scoff - ers. It
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, his death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns his face a - way, as
was my sin that held him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; his
should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life; I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Prayer of intercession for the church

Leader: O God, pour out on us your Holy Spirit—the Spirit of prayer—that we may ever love and desire to pray; being free, daily, to approach you with all confidence in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Move us to bow before you in every time of need, as children well beloved, for you are our most beloved Father.

Leader: Grant that, when your help delays, we would be patient, not dictating to you either time or method, but waiting and abiding your own good time.

All: May we lift up holy hands in full assurance that our prayers and sighs which come from the heart are truly heard. Amen.

adapted from a prayer by William Loehe

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

Offertory

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Chancel Choir

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death thy presence is my stay.
One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows; thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days.
O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come,
no more a stranger or a guest but like a child at home.

text paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Isaac Watts; traditional American hymn tune, arr. Virgil Thomson, 1938

* 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 18:1-8**

Bob Huffaker

¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"

⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Persistent Widow"

Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The point illustrated: a tenacious widow and an unjust judge (vv. 1-5)
2. The point applied: How much more can a beloved people trust a just God? (vv. 6-8)

BIG IDEA: Pray and don't give up.

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 4, vv. 1, 2, 3, 6**

"All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills.
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made his gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning dawn or evening shade his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
within the kingdom of his might, lo, all is just and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank him, thank our God with me.
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;
to your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness:
Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well.
To God all praise and glory!

text by Johann J. Schütz, 1675, tr. by Frances E. Cox, 1864; music from Bohemian Brethren's Gesangbuch, 1566, MIT FREUDEN ZART

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Fugue on “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”
Jeffrey Blersch

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – choral director
David Henry – trumpet, guitar

Joshua Knight – organ, piano
Cindy Solfest-Wallis – flute

Celebrating the baptism of John Aldridge Hart at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary today are his parents, Erin and Jeb Hart, his grandparents, Allison and Alan Dunaway and Jackie Hart, and his great-grandparents, Joyce and Chuck Jensen.

2024 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total 2024 Budget: \$5,860,000
2024 Pledges: \$2,986,858 (51%)
Remainder Needed: \$2,873,142

Member Households Pledged: 263 (41%)
Remaining Households to Pledge: 371 (59%)
Total Member Households: 634

Thank you to those who have turned in their pledge toward the 2024 operating budget of LMPC. As of Thursday, 51% of our budget has been pledged by 41% of our church body. If you haven't yet pledged, please do so as soon as possible online at lmpc.org/give or through Realm Connect.

MISSIONARY GUESTS: EOWYN AND DAVID STODDARD



Eowyn and David Stoddard joined the MTW church planting movement in eastern Berlin in 2001. Over the past 20 years, their team has been involved in planting five churches and a campus of the Martin Bucer Seminary. David currently serves as International Director for Europe, overseeing MTW’s vision, strategy, and personnel in Europe. Eowyn assists David in his role and supports church planting through evangelism, teaching, and women’s initiatives. They have five grown children.

Eowyn and David are longtime partners with LMPC. For more information on their work and ministry, listen to the Pillar & Ground podcast episodes where they are featured guests: “Connecting with MTW Partners David & Eowyn Stoddard” released on September 26, 2022, and “Why Should We Invest Resources in Missions to Europe?” released on January 15, 2024.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 seminar in the fellowship hall. This seminar isn’t just for parents; come and be equipped to better lead the children in your life. 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. Childcare for preschoolers will be offered on Saturday morning only.

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.

JOIN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our online church directory allows our members to easily find contact information for one another. And it is private, which means it is only accessible through a Realm Connect account. If you do not have an account, or if you have hidden your information, others in the church cannot find you. Find more details about joining and using Realm Connect at lmpc.org/realm.