



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Give us grace, almighty Father, to address thee with all our hearts as well as with our lips. Thou art everywhere present: from thee no secrets can be hidden.

*Teach us to fix our thoughts on thee, reverently and with love,
so that our prayers are not in vain, but are acceptable to thee,
now and always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

— Jane Austen

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able.

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Robert Clark, ruling elder

* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 8

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Leader: When we consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

All: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

* **Hymn of praise**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin, he sets the pris’ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

text by Charles Wesley, 1739; music by Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

* **Prayer of adoration**

Affirmation of faith

from Philippians 2:6–11

Leader: What do the Scriptures teach us about Jesus Christ?

All: That he, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Call to confession

Hebrews 4:14–16

Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hymn of confession

“Jesus Paid It All”

I hear the Savior say, “Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all.”

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper’s spots, and melt the heart of stone. *Refrain*

And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat. *Refrain*
text by Elvina M. Hall, 1865; music by DH, 2012

Responsive prayer of confession

from Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

All: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Leader: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

All: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Romans 5 and Colossians 1

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*** 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 18:9-14**

Pamela Wilson

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

¹⁴"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The Pharisee's revealing prayer (vv. 9–12)
2. The tax collector's revealing plea (v. 13)
3. Jesus' surprising verdict (v. 14)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response**

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

text by George Matheson, 1882; music by Christopher Miner, 1997

*** 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
Carson Culbertson – guitar
David Henry – guitar, vocals
Hannah Lutz – viola

Mike McCracken – clarinet
Rebecca McCracken – vocals
Betsy Musick – vocals
Ethan Rester – piano

IN MEMORIAM

John Rowell Bennett

April 3, 1931 – February 12, 2024

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATE COMMUNION AT OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will also commission Brian Salter, Peter Lindquist, and Keith Michaels for their trip to Central Asia.

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.

HAVE YOU MOVED IN THE LAST YEAR? Log in to Realm Connect today to update your address and contact information. This serves as our church directory, so it is important you keep your account current. Your information is private, only accessible through a Realm Connect account.

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

2024 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total 2024 Budget: \$5,860,000
2024 Pledges: \$3,337,495 (57%)
Remainder Needed: \$2,522,505

Member Households Pledged: 275 (43%)
Remaining Households to Pledge: 359 (57%)
Total Member Households: 634

Thank you to those who have turned in their pledge toward the 2024 operating budget of LMPC. As of Wednesday, 57% of our budget has been pledged by 43% 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.

RECEIVE LMPC'S WEEKLY NEWS EMAIL

Don't miss out on upcoming church events, building updates, resources, and other news. Stay informed by contacting onrealm@lmpc.org to update your email preferences.