LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God, we fall down before your Majesty and ask that this seed of your Word now sown among us may take such deep root, that neither the burning heat of persecution cause it to wither, nor the thorny cares of this life choke it. But that, as seed sown in good ground, it may bring forth thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold, as your heavenly wisdom has appointed. Amen.
– Middelburg Liturgy

MARCH 17, 2024 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE

** Congregation standing as you are able.*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

*** Call to worship** based on Psalm 105

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

All: Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. 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.

Leader: Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced. He is the LORD our God and he remembers his covenant forever.

All: He remembered his holy promise to his servant Abraham. He brought out his people with rejoicing, with shouts of joy; he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

*** Hymn of praise** "O Worship the King"

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

based on Psalm 104, text by Robert Grant, 1833; music by Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

*** Prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, and petition**

Leader: Almighty God, Father of all mercies:

All: **We, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness displayed to us throughout this RENEW effort.**

Leader: You are renewing our place for the next generation, and we give you thanks. We thank you for the restoration and replacement of every 700 pound capstone; for the placement of all 63,000 slate tiles; for the delicate craftsmanship of 21,000 square feet of copper fabricated into flashings, downspouts, and gutters; for the detailed masonry work with 1 million pounds of sand aggregate; for the beautifully refurbished stained glass windows, the rescued rose window, and over 80 new windows; and for the wise application of 76,000 pounds of Portland cement. We are stunned by the skilled workers, amazing craftsmen, gifted artisans, and thoughtful contractors that you have brought to us to complete this work. Glory to you alone, our Great King. As David exclaimed before the assembly in the dedication of the temple, we now exclaim:

All: **"Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."**
from 1 Chronicles 29

Leader: For the blessings of this dwelling, O Lord: for the sure foundation; for the roof stretched overhead as a sheltering canopy; for the luxury and security of windows and doors; for these strong walls staying wind and weather; for the comforts of floor and furniture, heating and cooling, fresh running water and electrical wiring; and for all fixtures, appliances, and conveniences that make our lives here less toilsome:

All: **We give you thanks, O Lord, acknowledging that all provision is your provision. This place is a gift. The sharing of life within these walls is a gift. We acknowledge that the necessary time and resources toward the maintenance and repair of this dwelling is not a burden, but good stewardship and a glad opportunity.**

Leader: Now, our God, as we approach a year where the work will come inside, our temporary difficulties will grow, and our mess will multiply, we ask that you give us grace. Replace grudging irritation with gentleness and generosity of spirit. Grant us both humility and unity as a family. May we be patient and kind as we navigate renovation inside the walls where we will worship and gather. As we endure the work, deepen our anticipation of what is to come for us as a church with this renewed vision and renewed space.

All: Our Father, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory throughout all ages. In Jesus' name, Amen.

RENEW presentation

Call to confession Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Prayer of confession

Leader: Almighty God, we confess how deeply we struggle to be the people you have called us to be.

All: You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet, we acknowledge we are often more apathetic than active, more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate, more obstinate than obedient, and more legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.
adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace John 3:16–17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

*** Hymn of assurance** "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save;
till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!
text by Stuart Townend © 2001 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic.# 152036

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

Offertory hymn "My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain;
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again;
who crushed my curse of sinfulness, and clothed me in his light,
and wrote his law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside;
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly;
whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take,
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above,
whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King;
so I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him.
text and music Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic.# 152036

*** Scripture reading from Luke 19:11–27** Annie Reynolds

[11]As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near
to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear
immediately. [12]He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive
for himself a kingdom and then return. [13]Calling ten of his servants, he gave
them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' [14]But his
citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this
man to reign over us.'

[15]"When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants
to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what
they had gained by doing business. [16]The first came before him, saying, 'Lord,
your mina has made ten minas more.' [17]And he said to him, 'Well done, good
servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority
over ten cities.' [18]And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made
five minas.' [19]And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' [20]Then
another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a
handkerchief; [21]for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take
what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' [22]He said to him, 'I
will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that
I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not
sow? [23]Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming
I might have collected it with interest?' [24]And he said to those who stood by,
'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' [25]And
they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' [26]'I tell you that to everyone who
has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be
taken away. [27]But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign
over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

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

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon "The Parable of the Ten Minas"
Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministries

1. The call for waiting disciples: be about the King's mission (vv. 11–14)
2. The response of the returning King: extraordinary generosity and just judgment (vv. 15–27)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response** "O Church, Arise"

O church, arise, and put your armor on, hear the call of Christ our captain;
for now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;
and Christ will have the prize for which he died: an inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
this vict'ry march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of his grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day when, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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*** 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:

Christley Bergeron – vocals
Seth Bergeron – vocals
David Henry – guitar, vocals
Hannah Lutz – viola
Jenna McClure – vocals
Sam Miller – guitar
Ethan Rester – piano
Asa Williams – trumpet

The rosebuds in the service today are for the births of:

- Hugh Philip Morton, born to Hendley and Hugh Morton on March 4
- Collins Cecelia White, born to Breanne and Clif White on March 7
- Autumn Elizabeth Payne, born to Malory and Jordan Payne on March 12

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MORNING, A RENEW UPDATE will be presented in all worship services. Members received a brochure in the mail outlining the vision and the upcoming work. If you need a physical copy, you may pick one up in the fellowship hall lobby or sanctuary Narthex. Otherwise, you may view a digital copy at lmpc.org/renew.

FOR OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING TODAY, we will celebrate communion in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided.

THE PLAYGROUND IS CURRENTLY CLOSED, due to hazardous materials present during construction work. Please observe signage and do not access the playground when gates are locked.

TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD EASTER LILIES to be placed in the sanctuary or fellowship hall in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please give online through Realm Connect or contact the church office. The deadline is tomorrow, March 18.

A CAR IS NEEDED for a visiting missionary family to borrow during their time on the mountain. The tentative dates of their trip are Monday, March 25 – Monday, April 15. If you can help, please contact Missions Coordinator Stephanie Young, stephanie@lmpc.org.

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

2024 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total 2024 Budget: $5,860,000
2024 Pledges: $3,679,475 (63%)
Remainder Needed: $2,180,525

Member Households Pledged: 306 (48%)
Remaining Households to Pledge: 328 (52%)
Total Member Households: 634

Thank you to all who have turned in a pledge toward the 2024 operating budget of LMPC. As of Wednesday, 63% of our budget has been pledged by 48% 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Communion Service
..... 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall*

Good Friday Service
..... 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary*

Easter Sunrise Service
..... 7:15 a.m. at Point Park (meet in the sanctuary in case of rain)

Easter Morning Coffee and Donuts
..... 8:00 a.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building

Easter Sunday Services
..... 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary*
..... 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall*
No Sunday School for adults, youth, or children
No Evening Gathering or youth activities

**indicates nursery available*

SET UP GIVING IN REALM CONNECT

Giving online through Realm or the Realm Connect App is easy and convenient! Just log in to your Realm Connect account, tap "Giving," and tap the blue button that says "+Give" (or "Make a gift" if you're on the app) to creat a new gift. From there, set up a one-time or recurring gift. You also have the option to securely save your billing information in Realm for future gifts or event payments. Don't have a Realm Connect account? Request one today by visiting lmpc.org/realm.