



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Lord, our hope is in you.

Remove far from us empty hopes and presumptuous confidence.

*Make our hearts so right with your most holy and loving heart,
that hoping in you we may do good, until that day when faith and hope
shall be abolished by sight and possession, and love shall be all in all. Amen.*

—Christina Rossetti

AUGUST 11, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

arr. Albert Travis

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #5)

Welcome and greetings

Joe Donnovin, 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 580

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home:
through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy, the heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning where’re thy face appears;
thy cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light:
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.
text by Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888; music by Henry Smart, 1836, LANCASHIRE

*** Prayer of adoration**

Affirmation of faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, question one

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Call to confession

Romans 3:20-24

No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Hymn of confession 261

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

American folk hymn; music from Walker's The Southern Harmony, 1835, WONDROUS LOVE

Prayer of confession

Leader: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

All: **We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy on us.**
adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, Morning and Evening Prayer

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Hebrews 10

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

* Hymn of assurance 679

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise; just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

Refrain: Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;
just in simple faith to plunge me ’neath the healing, cleansing flood! *Refrain*

Yes, ’tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace. *Refrain*

I’m so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end. *Refrain*
text by Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; music by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882, TRUST IN JESUS

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

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light,
 can break into the dark, draw morning from the night?
 Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?
 Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see,
 brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free?
 Who but the Lord will by his glory show the paths of peace?
 O shine on us the brightness of your face,
 to earth's remotest end, ev'ry people, ev'ry race.
 O shine on us until to each is shown your saving grace.

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light? None but the Lord.

text 11th century Latin and Susan Bentall Boersma; music by Craig Courtney © 2017 Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCLI Lic. #152036

*** 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 passage from Joshua 9:1-27**

¹As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, ²they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel. ³But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, ⁵with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. ⁶And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." ⁷But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" ⁸They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" ⁹They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were

beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth. ¹¹So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, ‘Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, “We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us.”’ ¹²Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. ¹³These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.” ¹⁴So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. ¹⁵And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

¹⁶At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. ¹⁷And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. ¹⁸But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders. ¹⁹But all the leaders said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. ²⁰This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them.” ²¹And the leaders said to them, “Let them live.” So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

²²Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, “Why did you deceive us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell among us? ²³Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.” ²⁴They answered Joshua, “Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing.

²⁵And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it.” ²⁶So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. ²⁷But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Messy Mercy”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. The messy pursuit of mercy (vv. 1-15)
2. The necessity of faithfulness amid sin’s consequences (vv. 16-21)
3. God’s gracious provision: bringing sinners near (vv. 22-27)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow’r;
crown your ancient church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways;
from the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Heal your children’s warring madness, bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your Kingdom’s goal,
lest we miss your Kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

text by Harry E. Fosdick, 1930; music by John Hughes, 1907, CWM RHONDDA

*** Benediction**

*** Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

*** Postlude**

Grand Choeur
Théodore Salomé

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

The rosebuds in the service today are for the birth of Holly Keith Owen, born to Jan and Spencer Owen on July 31, and the birth of Mabel Grace Whitted, born to Bethany and Chapman Whitted on August 5.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S THE DAY! Pick up a Build-a-Bag tote before or after morning services, fill it with food or toiletry items from the suggested list, and return it to the Jane Harris Youth Building on any Sunday morning by September 1. Help us stock the Salvation Army, who depends upon us for this collection each year.

DUE TO CONSTRUCTION CONSTRAINTS, the evening communion service on August 18 will not be held.

THE WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP KICKOFF will be held on Sunday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Jill Pulver's home on Missionary Ridge. Please join us as we gather before the start of the ministry year for a time of song, prayer, and fellowship. Appetizers, desserts, and drinks will be provided. Register on Realm Connect to receive the address and parking instructions. Parking will be limited, so you are encouraged to carpool. There is a small fee of \$5 to attend.

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FAMILY CAMP! Join us September 6-8 at Alpine Camp (Saturday-only option available). Registration on Realm Connect is open now; you must register by August 14 if you want to order t-shirts or hats! Visit lmpc.org/family-camp for more information.

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

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