



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Evil can only break itself apart, recoiling back into its own destruction
and digging its own grave. It has no part in the true Kingdom.*

*All its desolation will fall away to nothing and be gone,
before the splendor of the resurrection.*

—Malcolm Guite, from Psalm 7, “VII Domine, Deus meus”

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”
arr. Marvin Gaspard

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

* **Call to worship**

based on Psalm 99

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

All: **Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.
Let us praise your great and awesome name—for you are holy.**

Leader: You are the mighty King, and you love justice. In Jacob you have done what is just and right. We exalt you, our LORD and God, and worship at your footstool, for you are holy.

All: **We exalt you, O LORD our God, for you are holy!**

* **Hymn of praise 100**

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
text by Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; music by John B. Dykes, 1861, NICAEA

*** 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.**

Sacrament of baptism

Tay Tay and Carter Helm bringing William Stroud Helm

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

Offertory "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" Chancel Choir and congregation

Choir: There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

All: **Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing your pow'r to save,
when this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave:
lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
when this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave.**

**Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood shall never lose its pow'r,
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more:
be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more.**

text by William Cowper, 1771; music by John Wykoff, 2002 and Lowell Mason, 1830

*** Gloria Patri 735**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*** Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

*** Scripture reading from Luke 20:9-19**

James Stevens

⁹And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while.

¹⁰"When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.'

¹⁴"But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" ¹⁷But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? ¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ¹⁹The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

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 Wicked Tenants"

Brian Salter, lead pastor

The parable of the wicked tenants reminds us of:

1. the gracious provision of God as vineyard owner. (v. 9)
2. the remarkable patience of God for faithless people. (vv. 10-13)

3. the ultimate consequences of unyielding resistance to God and his beloved Son. (vv. 14-19)

Concerning one who says a thing cannot be wrong unless it hurts other human beings: “He quite understands that he must not damage the other ships in the convoy but he honestly thinks that what he does to the ship is simply his own business. But does it not make a great difference whether his ship is his property or not? Does it not make a great difference whether I am, so to speak the landlord of my own mind and body, or only a tenant, responsible to the real landlord? If somebody else made me, for his own purposes, then I shall have a lot of duties which I should not have if I simply belonged to myself.” C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 47

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.

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – choral director
Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Travis Knight – soloist

Celebrating the baptism of William Stroud Helm at the 9:30 service in the sanctuary today are his parents, Tay Tay and Carter Helm, and his grandparents, Merrile and John Stroud and Barbara and Andrew Helm.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are from the wedding of Lauren Campbell and John Markley on September 14 and are given in loving memory of Mrs. Linda Campbell, grandmother of the bride, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boyd Patterson Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Markley, grandparents of the groom.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICES will meet in the Lookout Mountain School auditorium across the street at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. until the truss work is completed.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW CHILDREN'S RESOURCE? Each week, pick up Table Talk for kids with reading and discussion questions to continue the conversation during the week after the sermon. Find it on our website or on the back of the weekly coloring sheet.

THE SESSION HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL for children, youth, or adults until the chapel and three children's classrooms under it are ready to be used. There is **one exception: the Redeemer class**, as it is mostly independent of children and youth programming. Adults are welcome to attend at 9:30 a.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building, beginning today.

LMPC'S PODCAST, PILLAR & GROUND, has returned for the fall. New and upcoming episodes include interviews with church members and partners, a conversation about Christians and politics, and overviews from the Westminster Confession of Faith on topics like repentance, good works, and perseverance. Listen to Pillar & Ground wherever you get your podcasts.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS will resume on Wednesday, September 18 and run weekly through the fall from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. Music Makers is for ages 4 & 5 and Kingdom Kids is for grades 1-5. Please register on Realm Connect and email Joy Gibbons at joy@lmpc.org if you have questions.

JOIN US FOR A WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP PICNIC on September 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Commons. We'll enjoy pizza, cookies, and conversation while the children play on the playground. Register on Realm Connect; regular Wednesday dinner rates apply.

MEN'S STEAK NIGHT will take place on Thursday, September 26, and is a great opportunity to be with 8-10 other men to enjoy fellowship and eat meat. Please register on Realm Connect by Wednesday, September 18. To host a dinner, please contact Julie Dean, julie@lmpc.org.

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOMINATE OFFICERS at lmpc.org/officers by September 29. On that webpage you may also access information about the nomination process, answers to frequently asked questions, and a list of those eligible to serve as officers. Alternatively, request a paper nominating ballot from the church office. Questions? Email nominations@lmpc.org.

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