



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Lord, when thou shalt enter my soul, thou shalt reverse my standard of greatness.
Those things which I counted gain shall become insignificant unto me,
and those things which I counted insignificant shall appear great gain.*

*I care now for what I shall seem to be, more than for what I am;
but then, my being shall be the mountain and my seeming the valley.*

—George Matheson, from Day unto Day

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Be Still, My Soul”

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #689)

Welcome and greetings

Joe Donnovin, ruling elder

* Call to worship

from Psalm 111

Leader: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

All: **Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**

Leader: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

All: **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

* Hymn of praise 699

“Like a River Glorious”

Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,
over all victorious in its bright increase;
perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev’ry day,
perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

Refrain: Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand,
never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there. *Refrain*

Ev’ry joy or trial falleth from above,
traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust him fully all for us to do;
they who trust him wholly find him wholly true. *Refrain*
text by Frances Havergal, 1874; music by James Mountain, 1876, WYE VALLEY

* Prayer of adoration

Affirmation of faith

from Colossians 1:15–20

Leader: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

All: **For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

Leader: And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

All: **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

Call to confession

based on Micah 6:6–8

With what shall we come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall we come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? He has shown us, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of us? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Hymn of confession

“With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh”

With broken heart and contrite sigh, a trembling sinner, Lord, I cry:
thy pardoning grace is rich and free; O God, be merciful to me.

Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done can for a single sin atone;
to Calvary alone I flee: O God, be merciful to me.

And when, redeemed from sin and hell, with all the ransomed throng I dwell,
my raptured song shall ever be, “God has been merciful to me.”

text by Cornelius Elven, 1852; Gregorian chant, arr. Lowell Mason, 1824, HAMBURG

Prayer of confession

Leader: O most great, most just and gracious God, you condemn the ungodly and unrepentant; but you have promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all who repent and believe in him.

All: We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God: We have neglected your holy worship and abused your holy name. We have dealt unjustly and unkindly with our neighbors. We have not sought first your Kingdom and righteousness. We have not been content with our daily bread.

Leader: You have revealed your wonderful love to us in Christ and offered us pardon and salvation in him; but we have often turned away.

All: We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. We confess you alone are our hope. Shape us as your children, and give us the Spirit of your Son, our only Savior.

adapted from a prayer by Richard Baxter

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on Ephesians 2:4-10

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace we have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

* Hymn of assurance 305, vv. 1, 2, 4

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede,
his all redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race, his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

My God is reconciled; his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

text by Charles Wesley, 1742; music by Louis Edson, 1782, LENOX

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

Offertory

"I Am Not My Own"

Chancel Choir

I am not my own, I am not my own,
not in body, not in soul, in life, nor even death.
I am not my own, I am not my own.
I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
I am not my own.

I am not my own, I am not my own,
not in body, not in soul, in life, nor even death.
I am not my own, I am not my own.
His own blood has ransomed me, from evil set me free.
I am not my own.

For my salvation all things work together;
in eternal life he gives me hope.
By the power of his Holy Spirit, I will live for him.
I am not my own, I am not my own.

I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
I belong to him, I belong to him; in life, in death,
my only comfort, I belong to him, I will live for him.
Forever and ever, forever and ever, forevermore.

text by Susan Bentall Boersma, music by Craig Courtney © 2015 Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCLI #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 reading from Luke 20:19-26**

David Wharton

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. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. ²¹So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²²Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”

²³But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴“Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” ²⁵He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²⁶And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Traps and Truth”

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The sinister trap: a political question (vv. 19–22)
2. The stunning truth: a Kingdom answer (vv. 23–26)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 565**

“All for Jesus!”

All for Jesus! All for Jesus! All my being’s ransomed pow’rs,
all my thoughts and words and doings, all my days and all my hours.

Let my hands perform his bidding, let my feet run in his ways;
let my eyes see Jesus only, let my lips speak forth his praise.

Worldlings prize their gems of beauty, cling to gilded toys of dust,
boast of wealth and fame and pleasure; only Jesus will I trust.

Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus, I’ve lost sight of all beside;
so enchained my spirit’s vision, looking at the Crucified.

O what wonder! how amazing! Jesus, glorious King of kings,
deigns to call me his beloved, lets me rest beneath his wings.

text by Mary D. James, 1889; music by John Stainer, 1887, WYCLIFF

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

arr. Jay Althouse

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #296)

Musicians for this week:

Curt Elverd – trumpet

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Joy Gibbons – choral director

Celebrating the baptism of Amelia Ruth Curtis at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary today are her parents, Kayley and Tucker Curtis, her grandparents, Lisa Forshey and Laurie and Bob Curtis, and her great-grandmother, Margaret Arnold.

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Lucy Jane Ledbetter, born to KK and Austin Ledbetter on September 11.

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.

TODAY IS COLLEGE LUNCH at the Jane Harris Youth Building at 12:15 p.m. College students, please join us for lunch and get connected at LMPC; we’d love to meet you.

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME Molly Ballenger as our new Co-Director of Middle School Ministry. Molly grew up on Lookout and was a student in our youth group throughout middle and high school, serving as an Intern during the summer of 2023. She graduated from Furman University in the spring of 2023 with a BA in Religion and English. Molly spent the last year in the Blue Ridge Fellows program in Roanoke, VA, and serving at Wilderness Ranch Young Life camp in Colorado.

CARING FOR A LOVED ONE can present many challenges to the caregiver. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building for our Care for the Caregiver Group.

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.

THE LAST DAY TO NOMINATE OFFICERS is September 29. You may do this at lmpc.org/officers, or by requesting a paper nominating ballot from the church office. Questions? Email nominations@lmpc.org.

LOSS OF A SPOUSE is a two-hour GriefShare event to be held on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Lookout Mountain, GA, City Hall. The session will include a video, workbook, and discussion. A registration fee of \$7.00 will cover the cost of the workbook. Please register on Realm Connect.

JOIN US FOR THE REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL, to be held on Sunday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Chattanooga. Combined choirs and instrumentalists from First Presbyterian, LMPC, and Covenant College will lead us in worship and congregational hymns.

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 on joining and using Realm Connect at lmpc.org/realms.