



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

I bless thee for the throne of grace, that the veil is torn aside and I can enter the holiest and find thee ready to hear, waiting to be gracious, inviting me to pour out my needs, promising to give more than I ask or think. Give me in rich abundance the blessings the Lord's Day was designed to impart; may my meditations be sweet, my drink the streams that flow from thy throne, my food the precious Word, and may my heart be more knit to Jesus.

—excerpt from "The Lord's Day," The Valley of Vision

OCTOBER 13, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Take Time to Be Holy”

arr. Charles Callahan

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #537)

Welcome and greetings

Keith Michaels, ruling elder

* Call to worship

Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

All: **Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

All: **For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

* Hymn of praise 75

“O Father, You Are Sovereign”

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
no pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
you hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
All evil overruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,
your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
but soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:
our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!
text by Margaret Clarkson, 1982; music by Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615, ST. THEODULPH

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

Luke 18:9–14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Prayer of confession

Leader: O Lord, as long as I am apart from you, I am self-satisfied,
because I have no standard by which to measure my low stature.
But when I come near to you, there I see myself clearly.

All: **In your light, I behold my darkness. In your purity, I behold my corruption.**

Leader: O Lord, let me gaze on you more and more—

All: **Until, in the vision of your brightness, I loathe the sight of my impurity; until, in the blaze of your glory, I fall to my knees, blinded and broken, to rise again as a new creation in you.**
adapted from a prayer by George Matheson

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”

Chancel Choir

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
 Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
 for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.
 Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever.
 Christ, we do all adore thee.

text from Latin hymn, translated and adapted by Theodore Baker, 1899; music from The Seven Last Words of Christ, by Théodore Dubois, 1867, ADORE THEE

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

Psalm 103:8–13

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

*** Hymn of assurance 508, vv. 1, 2, 4**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
 while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high:
 hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
 safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
 leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
 All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
 cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
 let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within:
 thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
 spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

text by Charles Wesley, 1740; music by Joseph Parry, 1879, ABERYSTWYTH

Worship in the giving of God’s tithe and our offerings**Offertory**

“Thou Art Holy”

Chancel Choir

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 shall be.
Thou art holy! Thou art holy!

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.
Thou art holy! Thou art holy!

Holy, holy, holy art thou, O Lord. Thou art holy, thou alone art holy.

text by Reginald Heber, arr. Craig Courtney © 2016 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 reading from Luke 20:45-21:4**

Mary Kaufmann

⁴⁵And in the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, ⁴⁶“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁷who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

¹Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ²and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Beware of Empty Religion”

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Jesus reveals the stark contrast between:

1. a religion by facade: inward insincerity masked by outward religiosity. (20:45-47)
2. a relationship by faith: genuine devotion marked by sincere love and dependence. (21:1-4)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 432**, vv. 1, 2, 4

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be:
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.

And we believe thy Word, though dim our faith may be,
whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

text by William Walsham How, 1864; music from Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis, 1850, SCHUMANN

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“All for Jesus!”

arr. Malcolm Archer

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #565)

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

The rosebuds in the service today are for the birth of Eleanor Ann Nadeja, born to Stephanie and Mike Nadeja on October 4, and for the birth of Caroline Elizabeth Kaufmann, born to Rachel and David Kaufmann on October 4.

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.

THE LMPC PLAYGROUND will be closed this week for sewer work; please comply with all safety instructions on posted signage.

LMPC MEN, come join the first in a series of book discussions about Christian leaders and issues facing Christians today. Meet at the Jane Harris Youth Building on Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. for a discussion on Collin Hansen's *Tim Keller: His Spiritual and Intellectual Formation*, led by Ken Stewart. The group will continue meeting monthly on second Thursdays.

JOIN US FOR A WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP PICNIC on October 23 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. (Gluten-free/dairy-free option available.)

MEN, COME FOR PRAYER, breakfast, and fellowship on Tuesday, October 29 from 6:30 to 7:45 a.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building. Feel free to bring a friend as we continue to seek the Lord's grace for renewal.

THE REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL will 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, Covenant College, and LMPC will lead us in worship and congregational hymns.

WOMEN'S FALL SUPPERS will be held in individual homes on Tuesday, October 29. Invite your friends and neighbors, and please register on Realm Connect.

WOMEN, JOIN US AT THE GA TOWN HALL for dessert and discussion on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. to explore Jonathan Haidt's book, *The Anxious Generation*, and how technology and social media are shaping our kids. The night will include small group discussion and a panel of LMPC women. Register for this free event on Realm Connect by November 11.

A SHORT-TERM TRIP TO INDIA is being coordinated by LMPC, tentatively scheduled for February 2025. This trip would be 10-14 days in length and primarily focus on serving with the Good Samaritans School in North India. If you are interested in learning more, please email missions coordinator Stephanie Young, stephanie@lmpc.org.

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

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.