



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
*Presbyterian Church*

**IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

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*Almighty God, enter our hearts, and so fill us with your love, that, forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace you, our only good. Show unto us, for your mercies' sake, O Lord our God, what you are unto us. Say unto our souls, "I am your salvation."*

*So speak that we may hear. Our hearts are before you; open our ears;  
let us hasten after your voice and take hold of you. Amen.*

*—St. Augustine*

NOVEMBER 17, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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### Prelude

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

*arr. Wilbur Held*

*(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #381)*

### Welcome and greetings

Robert Clark, ruling elder

### \* Call to worship

Psalm 95:1-7

**Leader:** Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

**All:** **For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.**

**Leader:** Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

**All:** **For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

### \* Hymn of praise 179

“Hallelujah! Thine the Glory”

We praise thee, O God! for the days of our youth,  
for the bright lamp that shineth—the Word of thy truth.

*Refrain:* Hallelujah! thine the glory, hallelujah! we sing;  
halelujah! thine the glory, our praise now we bring.

We praise thee, O God! for the Son of thy love,  
for Jesus who died and is now gone above. *Refrain*

We praise thee, O God! for thy Spirit of light,  
who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night. *Refrain*

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev'ry stain! *Refrain*  
*text by William P. Mackay, 1863, 1867 and Henry J. Kuiper, 1929; music by John J. Husband, 1760-1825,*  
*THINE THE GLORY*

## \* Prayer of adoration

### Call to confession

from Colossians 3

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

### Prayer of confession

Leader: Lord, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

**All: In our weakness, we have disobeyed your commands.  
In our apathy, we have ignored the promptings of your Spirit.  
In our arrogance, we have considered ourselves and our desires above all else.  
In our fear, we have forgotten your promises.**

Leader: Lord, without you we can do nothing; but with you we can do all.

**All: Help us by your grace. Keep us from falling.  
Help us by your strength to resist mightily the first beginnings of  
evil before it takes hold of us.  
Help us to cast ourselves at once at your sacred feet and lie there  
until the storm has passed. If we lose sight of you, bring us back  
quickly, and grant us to love you more deeply.**  
*adapted from a prayer by E.B. Pusey*

### Silent prayers of confession

#### Choral meditation

“At the Name of Jesus”

Chancel Choir

At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,  
ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.  
*text by Caroline M. Noel, 1870; music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925, KING'S WESTON*

### **Assurance of God's pardoning grace**

Hebrews 10:10b-14

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 156**, vv. 1, 2, 4

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord Most Holy, your lamp within my breast  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace,  
in love all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;  
your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.  
He comes, for men procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,  
for all God's sons securing their heritage in heav'n.  
*text by Paul Gerhardt, 1653; music by Melchior Teschner, 1615, ST. THEODULPH*

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

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines,  
though the olive trees do not yield, and the fields produce no food,  
though the sheep are cut off from the fold, and there are no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in God my Savior; I will rejoice in God the LORD.

LORD, I have heard of your mighty acts, and I am afraid.  
O LORD, revive your works in our time, in these days make them known;  
in wrath, remember mercy.  
I will wait patiently for the day of distress, for those to arise who will invade us.

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines,  
though the olive trees do not yield, and the fields produce no food,  
though the sheep are cut off from the fold, and there are no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in God my Savior; I will rejoice in God the LORD.

The LORD God is all my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and I will walk upon the heights, upon the heights.  
*text from the “Prayer of Habakkuk,” Habakkuk 3:2, 16b-19; music by K. Lee Scott, 2013*

**\* 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 21:29-38**

Pamela Wilson

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” <sup>37</sup>And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. <sup>38</sup>And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.

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 Fig Tree”  
Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministries

1. **The parable:** a certain sign of the Kingdom’s nearness (vv. 29–33)
2. **The point:** vigilance as we await the King’s return (vv. 34–38)

### **Pastoral prayer**

\* **Hymn of response 128**, vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform;  
he plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill  
he treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev’ry hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow’r.  
*text by William Cowper, 1774; music from the Scottish Psalter, 1615, DUNDEE*

\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

\* **Postlude**

“The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow”  
*arr. Malcolm Archer*  
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #367)

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Joy Gibbons** – choral director

**Joshua Knight** – organ

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FOR OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING** today we will worship and celebrate communion at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Nursery will be provided.

**A WIDOWS HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION** will be held beginning today until Friday, November 22 at noon, at the Jane Harris Youth Building. This is part of our Serve the City initiative, a precursor to the volunteer opportunity to assemble food boxes for Widows Harvest. See our website for a complete list of accepted items, and please do not leave donations outside church/office hours.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24** to come make a wreath and fellowship with friends over cookies and hot cocoa as we prepare for Advent. Please sign up on Realm Connect by November 18 for a time slot at the Jane Harris Youth Building. One wreath per family unit at a cost of \$15. For those who are interested, nursery is provided for the 4:30 p.m. time slot.

**WOMEN OF LMPC**, celebrate the Christmas season together at Canopy on Tuesday, December 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase. No registration is required.

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FAMILY NIGHT** Christmas event on Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. We will enjoy a pizza dinner and then play bingo! Please register on Realm Connect; regular Wednesday dinner prices apply.

**TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** in memory or in honor of a loved one, please do so through Realm Connect by December 12. For more information, call the church office or email [margaretcompton@lmpc.org](mailto:margaretcompton@lmpc.org).

**INTERESTED IN A SHORT-TERM MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY?** Join the team traveling to Juba, South Sudan, February 12–22 with Reconciliation Ministries (RMNI.org). This will be RMNI's 17th trip to the region. Contact Jim Sutherland at [jim@RMNI.org](mailto:jim@RMNI.org) for more information.

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/events](http://lmpc.org/events).*

## **GIVING UPDATE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024**

**Annual Budget:** \$5,860,000

**2024 Giving YTD:** \$3,793,263

**Remaining Gifts Needed:** \$2,066,737

**Outstanding Pledge Balance:** \$739,411

We're grateful for the generosity at LMPC so far in 2024. As we near the end of the year, please consider how you might contribute towards our mission of glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away on the mountain, in the city, and around the world. Find ways to give at [lmpc.org/give](https://lmpc.org/give).

## **UPDATE YOUR REALM CONNECT PHOTO**

Did you know you can update your profile picture in Realm Connect? Keeping your photo current helps staff and church members, especially newcomers, feel more connected. Update your photo by logging in, going to More → your current photo or initials → My Profile → then tapping the pencil next to your picture at the top of the screen to either take a photo or choose one from your device. Need help? Contact [onrealm@lmpc.org](mailto:onrealm@lmpc.org) for assistance.