



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace.

Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men.

—Ambrose

DECEMBER 1, 2024 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE • 9:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO LMPC! *We're so glad you are with us today. Please scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to share important information with us through an online form. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God. We encourage you to read the text on the front of the bulletin as we prepare to worship together.*

CHILDCARE: *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to crayons and children's bulletins.*

** Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

*** Call to worship**

from Psalm 33

Leader: Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

All: **For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.**

Leader: Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

All: **We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.**

*** Hymn of praise**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
text by Charles Wesley, 1744, and Mark Hunt, 1978; music by Rowland Pritchard, 1855

* Prayer of adoration

Lighting the candle of hope

from Isaiah 40 and Jeremiah 33

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for. "Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land, and he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

Advent prayer

Leader: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever present with us by your Spirit, we rejoice in hope at your coming.

All: **You, LORD, are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?**

Leader: Remove all that hinders us from worshiping you in spirit and truth this season, and make us ready for your return.

All: **You, LORD, are our stronghold; of whom shall we be afraid?**

continued

Leader: Give us a glimpse now, during this season, of the glory that we will someday see in full when all will be made new through Christ, our Lord and our Light.

All: We believe that we shall see your goodness, O LORD, in the land of the living. We wait for you; give us strength, and fill us with courage as we wait for you! Amen.

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and Psalm 27

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

Offertory hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Latin, 12th century, translated by John Mason Neale, 1851; Plainsong, 13th century

*** Scripture reading from Luke 1:26-38**

text printed in the bulletin

Rebekah Risley (9:30)

Steve Reynolds (11:00)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Advent: The Story of God's Grace”
Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

Pastoral prayer

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.

Those seated in the back rows will come forward to be served first, followed by the rest of the congregation, finishing with those in the front rows. Come down the center two aisles, partake of the elements, and return to your seat by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward for any reason, alert the elder circulating with the elements, and he will serve you at your seat. The bread is gluten-free and dairy-free. When you come to receive from this table of grace, please meditate on the words of the hymns and prepare your hearts as the musicians play and sing. Men and women will be available in the fellowship hall lobby to pray with you should you desire that.

Hymn of confession

"Come, O Redeemer, Come"

Father enthroned on high, holy, holy;
ancient, eternal Light, hear our prayer.

Refrain: Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark of our striving,
faithless, troubled hearts weighed down. *Refrain*

Look now upon our need; Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free from our sin. *Refrain*
text and music by Fernando Ortega © 1996 Metro One, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from 2 Timothy 1

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Words of institution

Communion affirmation

Leader: It is our greatest joy to give our God thanks and praise. In the fullness of time, he sent his only Son to be our Emmanuel, making for us a highway in the wilderness, where we, once-captive, may return with songs of joy. In Christ Jesus, we have seen and heard the good news of God: the sick are healed, strangers are welcomed, the poor have hope, and the dead are raised to new life.

All: In this meal, we remember our Savior's coming, dying, and rising. We await the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven, and seek to be faithful and alert for that glad hour. We are nourished to live as children of truth and light, to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, and to spread this good news of redemption throughout the world.

Therefore, we praise him, our Light and Life, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

adapted from Eucharistic Prayers for Advent

Prayer of consecration

Distribution of the elements

Songs for meditation

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable, come, know you are not alone.
O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come see what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken, come, with fears unspoken, come, taste of his perfect love.
O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run, see what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon;
his promise is peace for those who believe. *(repeat)*

So come, though you have nothing, come, he is the off'ring,
come, see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

text and music by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow © 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise, CCLI Lic. #152036

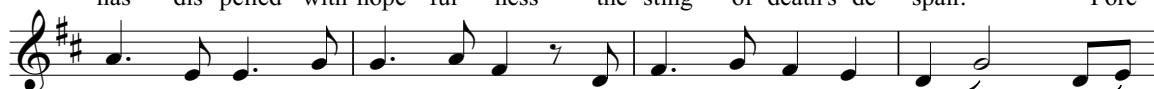
“There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem”



1. There_ blooms a rose in Beth-le - hem, from ten - der stem hath sprung. Of_
 2. The_ glo - ries of the heav - ens sur - round - ed shep - herds bright. The_
 3. This_ flow'r in bloom, a scent so_ sweet that greets us in the air. It_



Jes - se's line this flow - er_ grows as men of old have sung. I -
 an - gels sang, a sign was_ shown, the Christ was born that night. What
 has dis - pelled with hope - ful - ness the sting of death's de - spair. Fore -



sa - iah told us long a - go a - bout this rose we'd find;_ in_
 mys - ter - y they came up - on, the sign the her - alds laud, in_
 told, this rose was born to die, but would not see de - cay;_ so_



vir - gin arms, we shall be - hold the Sav - ior of man - kind.
 man - ger slept the Ho - ly_ One, in flesh, the Son of God.
 those who place their faith in_ him shall blos - som from the grave.

text and music by Neil DeGrade © 2014, Sovereign Grace Worship, CCLI Lic. #152036

*** Prayer of thanksgiving**

*** Hymn of praise**

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
 let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

text based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719; music by George F. Handel, 1742

*** Benediction**

*** 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.**

*** Postlude**

Musicians for this week:

William Darby – vocals

Anna Hart – flute

David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola

Jennifer Mixon – vocals

Jeremy Taylor – piano

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

SERMON NOTES

“Advent: The Story of God’s Grace”

Luke 1:26-38

1. The reality of God’s grace (vv. 26–29)

- Grace works in unexpected places.

- Grace works through unlikely people.

2. The response to God’s grace (vv. 30–38)

- Believing God’s Word in the midst of legitimate questions

- Entrusting ourselves to God in spite of incomplete knowledge

Further Up, Further In,
Resources for
Continued Study



ADVENT 2024

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

nursery available

Sunday, December 8

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

Sunday, December 15

4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE*

Tuesday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. only

3:00, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: THE WONDER OF INCARNATION

Charles Spurgeon beautifully notes, “Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise, it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—Incarnation! There is more in that than in creation, more melody in Jesus in the manger, than there is in worlds on worlds rolling their grandeur round the throne of the Most High.” This advent and Christmas, we will look at beginning chapters of both Luke and Matthew to discover the never-ending wonder of the Incarnation. It is simply the greatest news. As John Wesley said with his final words, “The best of all is, God is with us.”

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO YOU NEED PRAYER? Each Sunday, elders are available to pray with you between services at 10:30 a.m. in room E-200, located in the children's education wing. An usher can direct you if you need assistance.

ALL WOMEN OF LMPC are invited to 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. in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a pizza dinner and then play bingo! Please register on Realm Connect; regular Wednesday dinner prices apply.

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall on Sunday, December 8, to complete three important matters of church business:

- Approval of a slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon for the class of 2028 . Those men approved to stand for office will undergo training in the new year. The final election to office will take place in April 2025.
- Election of a member-at-large to serve as a director on the board of LMPC, Inc. for a four-year term.
- Consideration of a change of status for Wil Nettleton to Associate Pastor at LMPC, on the recommendation of the Session.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS will be held January 24-26. If you are an adult who wants to join the church, or you would like to learn about what we believe, this class is for you. Register on Realm Connect by January 10.

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

TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, December 1

9:30 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
9:30 a.m.	Sunday school for adults (Redeemer class)	JHYB
10:30 a.m.	Elders available to pray for your needs	Children's Education building, E-200
11:00 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
4:00 p.m.	Middle school small groups.....	various locations

For more events this week, visit 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.

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



OUR MISSION

Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.

CONTACT US

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue
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Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services and in the evening on the third Sunday of every month. Devices to amplify sound are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.