



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Merciful Father, who wills not your children should wander in darkness; pour the light of your Spirit into our minds and hearts, that we may discover what is your holy will, and discern the true from the false, the evil from the good, that we may henceforth walk in all humility in the paths of heavenly wisdom and peace, to the glory of your holy name.

—John Hunter

DECEMBER 8, 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

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

*** Call to worship**

based on Psalm 98 and Luke 1

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

All: **The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his
righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his
faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: **The Mighty One has done great things for us—holy is his name. His
mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation!**

*** Hymn of praise**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

traditional French carol and melody, arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Colossians 1

God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the
kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of
sins. God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, 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.

* Hymn of assurance

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Medieval Latin carol; German melody, 14th cent.

Lighting the candle of peace

In the days of the prophet Isaiah, the people looked forward to the coming birth of a Savior whom Isaiah described as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there would be no end, and he would reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

He himself is our peace. He came and preached peace to those who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we have access to the Father by one Spirit.

based on Isaiah 9:6-7; Ephesians 2:14, 17-18

Advent prayer

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

All: O Prince of Peace, even in the midst of the shadows around us, your justice is dawning.

Leader: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.

All: Fill us with wonder at your coming, and let our celebrations in this season spread new hope to a weary world.

Leader: We long for your return when all will be set right.

All: By your Spirit, teach us to embody your peace in all areas of our lives as we eagerly await that day, when the sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to us by night. For the LORD will be our everlasting light and our God will be our glory.

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and Isaiah 60

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

Offertory hymn

“See, amid the Winter's Snow”

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies:
he who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! *Refrain*

Teach, O teach us, holy child, by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility. *Refrain*
text by Edward Caswall, 1851; music by John Goss, 1870

* **Scripture reading from Luke 1:39-45**
text printed in the bulletin

David Fowler (9:30)
Jim Richter (11:00)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon "A Joyous Visitation"
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response** "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.
traditional English carol, adapted by William C. Dix, 1865; English melody, 16th cent.

* **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.**

Congregational meeting

Musicians for this week:

Genna Christie – vocals

David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola

Hannah Perry – flute

Ethan Rester – piano

Emmie Thompson – vocals

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

SERMON NOTES
“A Joyous Visitation”
Luke 1:39-45

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“A Joyous Visitation”
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ADVENT 2024

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Sunday, December 8

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

nursery available

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 15

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

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

CHRISTMAS CAROLING*

Sunday, December 22

1:30 p.m. Morning Pointe at Happy Valley

3:15 p.m. Thrive at Brow Wood

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

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

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

**register on Realm Connect*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME SING AND WORSHIP this evening at our annual Christmas Hymn Sing in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m.

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall today 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.

VIPS, JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON on Thursday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Due to the construction on our church property, we have greatly missed being together; we will celebrate at the Fairyland Club with a festive meal. Please reserve your spot by registering on Realm Connect or calling the church office by noon on Monday, December 9. Cost is \$10. *The VIPs is a group of mostly retired adults from Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church and the community who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.*

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, please call the church office or email margaretcompton@lmpc.org.

BRING YOUR FAMILY OR SMALL GROUP AND GO CAROLING on Sunday, December 22 at 1:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe at Happy Valley or 3:15 p.m. at Thrive at Brow Wood. Or, come to both! Please register on Realm Connect.

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 8

9:30 a.m.	Worship service.....	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.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
4:00 p.m.	Middle school small groups.....	various locations
6:00 p.m.	Christmas Hymn Sing.....	fellowship hall
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group.....	JHYB

For more events this week, visit lmpc.org/events.

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Annual Budget: \$5,860,000

2024 Giving YTD: \$4,184,849

Remaining Gifts Needed: \$1,675,151

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$554,409

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
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

Web: lmpc.org

Email: info@lmpc.org

Phone: 423.821.4528

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