



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*
—The Worship Sourcebook

DECEMBER 15, 2024 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

*** Hymn of praise 26**

“Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord”

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore.

text by Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1965; music by Walter Greatorex, 1919; WOODLANDS

*** Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

from Romans 13 and Proverbs 28

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Ephesians 1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ,

in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

*** Hymn of assurance 211**

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray;

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *Refrain*

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.” *Refrain*

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find. *Refrain*
English carol and melody, 18th century, GOD REST YOU MERRY

Lighting the candle of joy

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”
from Luke 2:8-11

Advent prayer

Leader: O Lord our Lord, in you is life, and that life is the light of men. Your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: We ask, O Lord, that just as the shepherds were filled with joy at the angels’ announcement, so also would we be filled with that same joy today! Even when our hearts feel cloaked in sadness and despair, remind us that you have come and will come again. Your light will never be overcome by the darkness.

Leader: Jesus, you said of yourself, “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

All: May our joy flow from deep and abiding relationship with you, and may it be expressed in loving service to every person we encounter. Grow your light in us, that the world may know that real joy is found in you. Amen.

from John 1 and 12

Worship in the giving of God’s tithes and our offerings

Offertory

Magnificat

Chancel Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
text from Luke 1:46-55; music by Charles Villiers Stanford, 1852-1924

* 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 1:46-55

Olivia Oster

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹“for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

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

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Truths to Make Your Heart Sing”
Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

Mary's song reminds us that joyful worship is always the proper response when we know:

1. Who God sees: the humble and lowly (vv. 46-48)
2. Who God is: mighty, holy, and merciful (vv. 49-50)
3. What God does: brings his Kingdom in unexpected ways (vv. 51-55)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 199, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

“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, SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – choral director, piano
Joshua Knight – organ

Kara Riley – Girls Ensemble director

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Scotlynn Rose Maclellan, born to Brooke and Reid Maclellan on December 4.

Christian sympathy is expressed to LMPC supported missionary Pete Mitchell on the passing of his wife, Ruth Mitchell, on December 10. Pete and Ruth have served with MTW in France for 32 years.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY AT THE END OF ALL SERVICES, there will be a RENEW update. For more details on where we are in the process, listen to the November 25 episode of LMPC's podcast, Pillar & Ground. Stuart Bickley and John Stroud recap some of the recently-completed work on our campus.

JOIN US THIS EVENING FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Nursery will be provided at 4:00 p.m. only. Experience "O Holy Night" with our chancel choir and instrumentalists.

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. We will meet Friday from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Register on Realm Connect by January 10.

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

ADVENT 2024

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

5:00 p.m. also available by livestream

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

**register on Realm Connect*

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.