



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life and took him up to the glory of heaven. Clothe us with the power promised from on high and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

—from Opening Prayers

MAY 11, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Prelude for Ascension”

Matthew Corl

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 68

Leader: God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered! But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

All: **Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!**

Leader: You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train.

All: **Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.**

* **Hymn of praise 100**

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

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 shalt be.

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.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
text by Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; music by John B. Dykes, 1861, NICAEA

*** Prayer of adoration**

New member vows

Call to confession

1 John 1:8-2:1

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. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Silent prayers of confession

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

based on Ephesians 2:4-10

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace we have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*** Hymn of assurance 535**

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

text by Samuel Trevor Francis, 1834-1925; music by Thomas John Williams, 1890, EBENEZER

Call to offering

Proverbs 11:24-25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Offertory

“In My Father’s House”

Chancel Choir

Refrain: In my Father’s house are many dwellings,
and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father’s house are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you? *Refrain*

Where I am going, you know the way. For I am the way, the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you also know my Father. *Refrain*

My Spirit will be with you always.
The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth will remind you of all I have said.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.
I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me. *Refrain*
text from John 14; music by Philip W. J. Stopford, 2015

* 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

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“The Ascension”

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. Jesus' gracious gift: a parting blessing (v. 50)
2. Jesus' glorious ascension: a sign of his victory (v. 51)
3. The disciples' unexpected response: great joy and expectant worship (vv. 52-53)

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 49

Q: What benefit do we gain from Christ's ascension into heaven?

A: First, that he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, that we have our flesh in heaven: taken there as a sure pledge that Christ our head will take us, his members, there to himself. And third, that he sends us his Spirit, sent back as a further pledge: by whose power we make our goal not earthly things, but things above where Christ is, seated at God's right hand.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 642, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.
ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent; traditional Irish melody, SLANE

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Partita on “Engelberg”, IV. Final
Michael Burkhardt
(*words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #292*)

Musicians for this week:

Joshua Knight – organ

Nate Oster – interim choir director

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the baptism of Scotlynn Rose Maclellan.

Celebrating the baptism of Scotlynn Rose Maclellan at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary today are her parents, Brooke and Reid Maclellan, and her grandparents, Lynn and Kris Lowry and Lisa and Scott Maclellan.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR HIGH SCHOOL MEXICO TEAM will be commissioned today at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please come, pick up a prayer card, and support them as they prepare to partner with local ministries in Acapulco.

THE FULL SLATE OF OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR THE CLASS OF 2028 was elected by the congregation on April 27. They will be installed as officers in the morning services on Sunday, May 18.

THIS MAY, JOIN US FOR A SUMMER IN THE PSALMS, our new sermon series beginning May 18. Pick up a reading plan in the fellowship hall lobby or sanctuary Narthex, and, if desired, purchase a Psalms Scripture journal for \$12 (register on Realm Connect).

PASTOR BRIAN SALTER WILL PREACH at Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Chattanooga on Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. This is part of a two-night worship event supporting Love's Arms Outreach. Your presence when Brian preaches at this church is a significant way to demonstrate our regard for him, and to honor the congregation that has invited him. We encourage you to consider joining us. Listen to the most recent Pillar & Ground podcast episode featuring Pastor Anthony Williams for more details.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY will be held on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. for four weeks beginning May 28. We will join our church body in a "Summer in the Psalms." Nursery and elementary childcare will be provided. Find details at lmpc.org/events.

POPSICLES ON THE PLAYGROUND is back on Friday, May 30, with more dates in June and July. Meet at the Commons from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. to fellowship with other women; bring your kids!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW for Women's Summer Suppers (June 10, July 24) and Women's Summer Book Clubs (July 10). Find details and register on Realm Connect.

VBS IS COMING! We are excited to host VBS back on our church campus this summer, June 17-19, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Registration is open on Realm Connect for rising kindergarteners through rising sixth graders. Cost is \$20 per child and includes dinner. We still need volunteers; please register in the separate event on Realm Connect.

LMPC JOB OPENING: We thank Amy Horne for 27 years of faithful service to LMPC; she will be stepping down as Nursery Director on June 30. View the job description and instructions on how to apply at lmpc.org/jobs.

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