



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

My heart needs thee, O Lord. No part of my being needs thee like my heart. All else within me can be filled with thy gifts. My hunger can be satisfied by daily bread. My weariness can be relieved by outward rest. But no outward thing can make my heart pure. This world has not provided for my heart. Provide thou for my heart, O Lord. Be thou its strength. Guide it in its gloom; help it in its conflict; direct it in its doubt; calm it in its conflict; prompt it in its perplexity; raise it from its ruins. Keep it under the shadow of thy wings. —George Matheson

JUNE 8, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”
arr. Maureen Howell

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

* Call to worship

from Psalm 104

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

All: **How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

All: **I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

* Hymn of praise 4, vv. 1, 3, 4, 6

“All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of wonders, pow’r, and love, the God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills.
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank him, thank our God with me.
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not his flock, his chosen generation;
he is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother’s tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;
to your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness:
Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well.
To God all praise and glory!

text by Johann J. Schütz, 1675; music from Bohemian Brethren's Gesangbuch, 1566, MIT FREUDEN ZART

*** Prayer of adoration**

Affirmation of faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 87

Leader: What is repentance unto life?

All: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, being truly aware of his sinfulness, understands the mercy of God in Christ, grieves for and hates his sins, and turns from them to God, fully intending and striving for a new obedience.

Call to confession

Ecclesiastes 12:13b-14 and Isaiah 55:6-7

Here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Hymn of confession 486, vv. 1, 4, 5, 6

“God, Be Merciful to Me”

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;
plenteous in compassion thou, blot out my transgressions now;
wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice;
from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;
thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God, to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

text from Psalm 51:1-15 and The Psalter, 1912; music by Richard Redhead, 1853, REDHEAD

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 self-pity, we have refused your tender, healing hand.
In our fear, we have forgotten your promises.**

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

All: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Silent prayers of confession

* Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Titus 3:4-7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

* Hymn of assurance 524

“Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ”

Thy works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart;
they tell me all is done; they bid my fear depart.

Refrain: To whom, save thee, who canst alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

Thy pains, not mine, O Christ, upon the shameful tree,
have paid the law's full price and purchased peace for me. *Refrain*

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the awful load
of sins that none in heav'n or earth could bear but God. *Refrain*

Thy righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me:
no righteousness avails save that which is of thee. *Refrain*
text by Horatius Bonar, 1857; music by John Darwall, 1770, DARWALL

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

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine: now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll, blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.

text by Ray Palmer, 1830; music by Lowell Mason, 1832, arr. Mary McDonald, 2024 , OLIVET

*** 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 Psalm 51**

Bob Huffaker

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within

me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Confession: The Way Back”

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. An urgent cry for forgiveness according to God's mercy (vv. 1-5)
2. An earnest cry for inward renewal that only God can bring (vv. 6-12)
3. The beautiful fruit of God's forgiveness and renewal (vv. 13-19)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 172, vv. 1, 3, 4, 5

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:
he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror's crown:
he who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
when through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
he who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!”
text by John Newton, 1774; music from Darmstadt Gesangbuch, 1698, ALL SAINTS OLD

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

arr. John Innes

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #598)

Musician for this week:

Joshua Knight – organ

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE TOMORROW, Monday, June 9. Please register on Realm Connect for \$20 per child. VBS will be held June 17-19, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN SCHOOL in India at a drop-in event on Wednesday, June 18 at 3:00 p.m. and enjoy light refreshments while you visit with the school's founder, Ananthi Jebasingh. This gathering will be held at the Lookout Mountain, GA, city hall.

SING IN THE MEN'S OR WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE THIS SUMMER: We'd love to have you join us! Men's Sunday singing dates are June 15, 22, 29, each with a Thursday evening rehearsal before. Women's Sunday singing dates are July 13, 20, 27, each with a Wednesday evening rehearsal before. Find details and register on Realm Connect if interested. Direct any questions to David Henry, davidh@lmpc.org.

SUMMER MISSIONS SERIES: LMPC will host several family-friendly missions events at upcoming Sunday Evening Gatherings: save these dates!

June 22: An Evening of Prayer with the China Partnership

July 13: Celebrating 10 Years of Work in Scotland with Robbie and Lydia Sweet

July 27: Youth Mexico Team Report

August 10: Home Mission Report with Norm and Ruth Ann Leduc

WOMEN'S SUMMER BOOK CLUBS will be held July 10. Read your chosen book and meet at a local restaurant. Register on Realm Connect for one of the following books: *Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry, *No Greater Love* by Rebecca McLaughlin, *Becoming Elisabeth Elliot* by Ellen Vaughn, or *Waiting Isn't a Waste* by Mark Vroegop.

THE ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & FINANCE at LMPC has now been divided into two part-time positions. Margaret Lowery is staying on as Director of Finance, and we welcome Ross Ballenger on staff as Director of Operations.

LMPC'S MOTHER'S DAY OUT program is hiring teacher aides and substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year (Tuesdays and Thursdays only). For more information, please contact MDO Director Megan DeMoss at megan@lmpc.org.

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

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