



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Be light to our darkness, wisdom to our folly, and manifest your strength in weakness. Remember us according to the favor which you bear to your own people; stir us up to seek your face, and to lay hold on your covenant; and make us find that it is indeed good for us to draw nigh unto you, and to wait upon you in and through the name and merits of Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate. Amen.

—Augustus Toplady

AUGUST 31, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

Andante
Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and greetings

Derek Halvorson, ruling elder

Introit

“The Call”

soloist

Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way, as gives us breath:
such a truth, as ends all strife: such a life, as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light, as shows a feast:
such a feast, as mends in length: such a strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy, as none can move:
such a love, as none can part: such a heart, as joys in love.
text by George Herbert, 1633; music by Ralph Vaughn Williams, from Five Mystical Songs, 1911

* **Call to worship**

taken from Isaiah 40

Leader: The sovereign LORD sits enthroned above the circle of the earth.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy. Lift up your eyes and look
to the heavens: Who created all these?

All: He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by
name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of
them is missing.

Leader: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can
fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of
the weak.

*** Hymn of praise 296, vv. 1, 3, 5, 6**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

st. 1–5 by Edward Perronet, 1779, st. 6 by John Rippon, 1787; music by Oliver Holden, 1793, CORONATION

*** Prayer of adoration**

Sacrament of baptism

Acacia Wright bringing Declan Douglas Wright, Abbott Enzo Wright, and Aprilia Lusk Wright

Call to confession

Hebrews 4:14–16

Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Silent prayers of confession

*** Assurance of God’s pardoning grace**

based on John 3:16–17 and Ephesians 5:1–2

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children. Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.
text by Charles Wesley, 1747; music by John Zundel, 1870, BEECHER

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

Offertory hymn 75

“O Father, You Are Sovereign”

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
no pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
you hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
All evil overruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,
your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
but soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:
our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!
text by Margaret Clarkson, 1982; music by Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615, ST. THEODULPH

*** 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 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5**

Michal Parsley

¹⁷But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

¹Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. ⁵For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Characteristics of Gospel-Centered Community”

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

Two characteristics of Gospel-centered community:

1. Deep affection that makes absence intolerable (ch. 2, vv. 17-20)
2. Faithful preparation that makes trial and temptation survivable (ch. 3, vv. 1-5)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 355**

“We Are God’s People”

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv’n:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav’n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
he wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;
we die alone, for on its own each member loses fire:
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.
text by Bryan Leech, 1976; music from Brahms, Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976,
SYMPHONY

*** Benediction**

*** Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

*** Postlude**

Postlude in D
Healey Willan

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – soloist

Joshua Knight – organ

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Sophia Marie Baxley born to Luisa and Drew Baxley on August 25.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are from the wedding of Ellie Thompson and Carson Hendon on August 30 and are given in loving memory of their grandparents: Ellen and John Thompson, Donald Lamb, and Martha and Norris “Tom” Steadman.

Celebrating the baptisms of Declan Douglas Wright, Abbott Enzo Wright, and Aprilia Lusk Wright at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary today are their mother, Acacia Wright, and their grandparents, Peggy and Ken Littrell, and Janet and Greg Wright.

IN MEMORIAM

John Scott Muller

November 13, 1942 – August 25, 2025

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH JULY 31, 2025

Total 2025 Budget: \$5,633,000

2025 Gifts Received: \$2,896,177 (51%)

Remainder needed: \$2,736,823 (49%)

Thank you to those who have given towards the 2025 operating budget of LMPC. You may give online at lmpc.org/give, through Realm Connect, or in the offering plate.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE'RE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE LMPC LIBRARY has reopened! Follow the signs from the fellowship hall lobby or the stairs under the sanctuary. Whenever the main church building is open, the library is open, and all are welcome to check out books, including community members and visitors.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES vary in day, time, and format so each woman at LMPC can find a place for deeper connection to the Word and to others. All studies begin after Labor Day; find the full list of offerings at lmpc.org/groups. For any questions or to get connected to a group, contact Caroline Scruggs at caroline@lmpc.org.

OUR ANNUAL BUILD-A-BAG COLLECTION is in progress. Don't forget to bring your filled bag back to the porte cochère on a Sunday morning by September 7. If you need to return your bag during the week, drop it at the church office building between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE with the Marriage Course. This seven-week video series beginning Tuesday, September 16 will help you strengthen your communication and grow your relationship. Register on Realm Connect for \$50/couple. You will sit at your own table and only interact as a couple. Meets in Room 211 at 6:30 p.m.

MEN'S STEAK NIGHT, on Thursday, September 25, is a great opportunity to gather at a home with 8-10 other men to enjoy fellowship and eat meat. Please register on Realm Connect by Sept. 18.

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOMINATE OFFICERS at lmpc.org/officers by September 29. Prayerfully nominating officer candidates is an important responsibility of your membership at LMPC. On that webpage you may also access information about the nomination process, answers to frequently asked questions, and a list of those eligible to serve as officers. Alternatively, request a paper nominating ballot from the church office.

MOST WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES will resume on September 3, including an adult class at 4:30 p.m.; fellowship dinner at 5:45 p.m.; Chancel Choir, Kids' Clubs, and Wednesday Prayer all at 6:15 p.m.; and Middle School Youth Group at 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir is open to middle school through adult.

SOME WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES will resume on September 10, including Music Makers (register on Realm Connect) for ages 4-5 and Children's Choir (register on Realm Connect) for Grades 1-5, both at 5:00 p.m.; and Middle School Girls' Ensemble at 5:30 p.m. Contact Director of Choral Ministries Brett Hyberger, brett@lmpc.org, with any choir questions. Find more information at lmpc.org/Wednesday and lmpc.org/groups. Note new dinner prices.