



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Rock of Ages, within whose magic cleft my spirit would fain repose, it is not to shun the strife that I come to thee. I come to thee for wings, for new power of flight. I seek thy rest because without thee I cannot soar. The road soon wearies my feet if something has not refreshed my soul, for it is by the soul and not by the feet that I make my way.

Rock of Ages, rest me ere I go.

—George Matheson

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

arr. Al Roberts

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #499)

Welcome and greetings

Larry Goodman, ruling elder

* Call to worship

Psalm 95:1-7

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

All: **For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

All: **For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

* Hymn of praise 2, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

“O Worship the King”

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow’r and his love;
our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

based on Psalm 104, text by Robert Grant, 1833; music by Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806, LYONS

*** Prayer of adoration**

*** Affirmation of faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call to confession

Hebrews 10:19b–22

Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hymn of confession 501, vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd’st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

text by Charlotte Elliott, 1836; music by William B. Bradbury, 1849, WOODWORTH

Prayer of confession

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

All: **Father, forgive us for the ways we have failed to live as you created us to live.**

Help us by your grace; keep us from falling.

Help us by your strength to resist mightily the first beginnings of evil before it takes hold of us.

Help us to cast ourselves at once at your sacred feet and lie there until the storm has passed.

If we lose sight of you, bring us back quickly, and grant us to love you more deeply.

adapted from a prayer by E. B. Pusey

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 498, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5**

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'ertakes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*
text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

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

Offertory

“The Meditations of My Heart”

Chancel Choir

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

O Lord my Rock, O Lord, my strength,
O Lord my God and Redeemer.
O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,
O Lord my Redeemer.

based on Psalm 19:14; music by Elaine Hagenberg © 2017 Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCLI Lic. #152036

* 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 3:6-13

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.

⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“The Response of Gospel Love”

Brian Salter, lead pastor

Deep Gospel love leads to:

1. life-giving joy in news of Gospel faithfulness. (vv. 6-10)
2. earnest petition for ongoing Gospel faithfulness. (vv. 11-13)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 710**, vv. 1, 2, 4

“God of Our Fathers”

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

text by Daniel C. Roberts, 1876; music by George William Warren, 1892, NATIONAL HYMN

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Postlude on “Ode to Joy”

Brenda Portman

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

The flowers in the sanctuary today are from the wedding of Libby Welborn and Benjamin Williams on September 6.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Caroline Gandy O’Ferrall

July 27, 1941 – September 2, 2025

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING today will be a time of prayer for our missionary partners at 6:00 p.m. in Room 211.

MOST WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES started last week, and the rest resume 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. Find more information at lmpc.org/Wednesday and lmpc.org/groups.

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.

MOMS OF ALL STAGES are invited to join us for “Moms’ Coffee” on Friday, September 19 in the chapel. We will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for coffee, breakfast, fellowship, and a panel discussion on busyness, stillness, and being present in the everyday. Nursery is available for infants-PreK.

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.

SAVE THE DATE for a RENEW celebration on Sunday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m., a worship service with a dinner to follow. This will mark four years since the launch of RENEW. More information will be forthcoming.

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