



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
*Presbyterian Church*

**IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

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*We know little, we can tell less, but one thing I know, one thing I can tell,  
I will see you again in Jerusalem.*

*Which is of such beauty, no matter what country you come from  
you will be more at home there, than ever with father or mother, than even with  
lover or friend. And once we're within her borders, death will hunt us in vain.*

*—Anne Porter, from “Four Poems in One”*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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**Prelude**

“The Blessed Hope”  
*John W. Peterson*

**Welcome and greetings**

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

\* **Call to worship**

based on Ephesians 1:3-18

**Leader:** All glorious God, we give you thanks, for in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

**All:** You chose us, before the creation of the world, to be your people, holy and blameless in your sight. In love, you predestined us to be adopted as your children through Jesus Christ. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

**Leader:** You have made known to us the mystery of your will, to bring all things in heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

**All:** All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

\* **Hymn of praise 101**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.  
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.  
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;  
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,  
and to eternity love and adore.  
*text anonymous, ca. 1757; music by Felice de Giardini, 1769, TRINITY*

**\* Prayer of adoration**

**Call to confession**

based on Titus 2:11-13

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, a people eager to do what is good.

**Prayer of confession**

**Leader:** Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

**All:** **We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy on us.**

*adapted from The Book of Common Prayer*

**Silent prayers of confession**

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

from Romans 4:25 and 5:1-2

Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

**\* Hymn of assurance 455, vv. 1, 3, 5**

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

And can it be that I should gain an int’rest in the Savior’s blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*Refrain:* Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),  
humbled himself (so great his love!), and bled for all his chosen race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me. *Refrain*

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. *Refrain*  
*text by Charles Wesley, 1738; music by Thomas Campbell, 1825, SAGINA*

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

### **Offertory**

"Arise, My Soul, Arise"

Chancel Choir

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears;  
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,  
my name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;  
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "forgive him, O forgive," they cry,  
"nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

My God is reconciled; his pard'ning voice I hear;  
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;  
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,  
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

Arise, my soul, arise!

*text by Charles Wesley, 1742; music by Dan Forrest ©2012 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 4:13-18**

Jim Richter

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word**

#### **Sermon**

“The Return of the King”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

Because Christ is risen and returning, believers:

1. grieve with hope. (vv. 13–14)
2. rest secure in our future together. (vv. 15–17)
3. encourage one another as we wait. (v. 18)

#### **Pastoral prayer**

\* **Hymn of response 310**, vv. 1, 2, 5

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

*Refrain:* Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. *Refrain*

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,  
and take his servants up to their eternal home. *Refrain*  
*text by Charles Wesley, 1746; music by John Darwall, 1770, DARWALL*

\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Brett Hyberger** – choral director  
**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

**Cameron Wilcox** – violin

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CLASSES** begin today at 10:00 a.m.

**Fellowship Class** (Room 213) / Teacher: Dan Wykoff  
Topic: *Genesis: Jacob, Joseph, & the Migration to Egypt*

**Kingdom Class** (chapel) / Teachers: Kelly Kopic & Joseph Wingfield  
Topic: *Luke's Gospel: A Discussion-Based Reflection*

**Redeemer Class** (Room 211) / Teacher: John Plating  
Topic: *The Life of the Apostle Paul: from Damascus to Rome*

**Sojourner Class** (Room 313) / Teachers: Glenn Breazeale, Jason Lehn, Doug Perry, Trey Carr, & Stephen Barnes  
Topic: *Encounters with Jesus*

**SEPTEMBER 29 IS THE FINAL DAY** to nominate officers at [lmpc.org/officers](http://lmpc.org/officers). Find all the information you need there on our website.

**WILL THE IMPENDING HOLIDAY SEASON** be difficult for you because you have lost a loved one? Come to “Surviving the Holidays,” a two-hour seminar beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 4 in Room 211. Please register on Realm Connect.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**, join us for lunch on Sunday, October 12 at 12:15 p.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building for a time of connection and fellowship.

**VIPS, JOIN US FOR A FALL GATHERING** including a hearty meal, friendly faces, and hymn singing. Meet at the Jane Harris Youth Building on Thursday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m. If you wish, bring sweaters, jackets, or blankets to donate to Vision of Mercy and the Salvation Army. Please register on Realm Connect or by calling the church office by Oct. 12. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from LMPC and the community.*

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING** the end of our four-year capital campaign, RENEW, with a worship service and a meal together. The service will be held on Sunday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m., followed by a picnic on the grounds. Registration is required on Realm Connect by October 3 if you plan to attend dinner. Family-friendly activities will be available for all as we fellowship together.

## **GIVING UPDATE THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025**

**Total 2025 Budget:** \$5,633,000

**2025 Gifts Received:** \$3,267,016

**Remaining Gifts Needed:** \$2,365,984

**Outstanding Pledge Balance:** \$1,631,545

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