



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Great God, King of the universe,
dwelling beyond all worlds and stars and yet intimately present to human hearts,
you who shine with purity and glory, lighting up ranks of angels and archangels....
we praise and thank you.
—from The Worship Sourcebook*

OCTOBER 26, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“In Christ Alone”

arr. Jason Payne

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

*** Call to worship**

based on Isaiah 25

Leader: O LORD, you are our God; we will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

All: **You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.**

Leader: On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

All: **The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. In that day we will say, “Surely, this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!”**

*** Hymn of praise 295**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me:
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.
text by Matthew Bridges, 1851; music by George J. Elvey, 1868, DIADEMATA

*** 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

Ecclesiastes 12 and Isaiah 55

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 308

“Jesus Paid It All”

I hear the Savior say, “Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all.”

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper’s spots, and melt the heart of stone. *Refrain*

For nothing good have I whereby your grace to claim—
I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. *Refrain*

And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat. *Refrain*
text by Elvina M. Hall, 1865; music by John T. Grape, 1868, ALL TO CHRIST

Prayer of confession

taken from Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

All: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Leader: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

All: **Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Silent prayers of confession

* Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

from 1 John 4:9-10, 15 and 1 Peter 2:9

Leader: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

All: We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

*** 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

“Ein feste Burg”
Martin Luther

Instrumental meditation

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #92)

*** 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 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

Jennifer West

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—⁶since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Maintaining Hope”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

How to maintain hope when it's hard:

1. Celebrate growth in grace. (vv. 1-4)
 - Growing faith
 - Increasing love
 - Continuing endurance
2. Anticipate Christ's return. (vv. 5-10)
 - Vindication
 - Vengeance
 - Glory
3. Petition for God's power. (vv. 11-12)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 44, vv. 1, 3, 4

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow’r thro’out the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art. *Refrain*
text by Stuart K. Hine, 1949; Swedish folk melody, arr. Stuart K. Hine, 1949, O STORE GUD

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Symphony No. 1, Op. 14: VI. Final
Louis Vierne

Musicians for this week:

Dylan Campbell – trumpet
Emmett Davies – trumpet

Joshua Knight – organ

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Harris John MacGregor, born to Katherine and Roy MacGregor on October 21.

Celebrating the baptism of Percy Joy Carr at the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall today are her parents, Emilie and Perrin Carr, and her grandparents, Lisa and Timothy Morris and Doreen Carr.

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Total 2025 Budget: \$5,633,000

2025 Gifts Received: \$3,595,349

Remaining Gifts Needed: \$2,037,651

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$1,397,222

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

THE ANNUAL REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga today at 6:00 p.m. A festival choir and orchestra comprised of musicians from LMPC, First Presbyterian, and Covenant College will lead us in great hymns of faith. Foundational readings and Scripture will remind us of the important significance of this day. Join us!