



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“The more fundamental question is whether you live your life for the Lord and the Gospel,
or whether the Lord and the Gospel are there to give you a better life.”*

- J. Elem (Chinese House Church pastor)

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

Three Pieces for Organ, I. Prelude
Desmond Ratcliffe

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

* **Call to worship**

from Psalm 9

Leader: We will praise you, O LORD, with our whole hearts; we will tell of all your wonders.

All: We will be glad and rejoice in you; we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Leader: The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

All: Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

* **Hymn of praise 92**, vv. 1, 3, 4

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

based on Psalm 46, text and music by Martin Luther, 1529; EIN’FESTE BURG

* Prayer of adoration

Prayer for the persecuted church

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

All: This morning, we pray for those members of your flock whose lives and ministries are oppressed.

Leader: Show your great mercies to our brothers and sisters who are persecuted, cast in prison, and daily condemned to death for the testimony of your truth.

All: We ask that your sweet comfort will never depart from them.

Leader: Enflame their hearts with your Holy Spirit that they may boldly and faithfully abide such trials as your godly wisdom may appoint, so that the Kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ may increase and shine through all the world.

All: Teach us to taste and see your eternal goodness as we face our own weaknesses and hardships—never forgetting that your grace is sufficient for us and your power is made perfect in weakness. May opportunities abound to share with others your great love found at the cross, and may the church here and around the world be refreshed by your sustaining power, to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.

adapted from "A Prayer for the Whole Estate of Christ's Church," included in a worship service written by John Knox, Geneva, 1556; 2 Corinthians 1:3, 12:9-10; Ephesians 1:6

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

Offertory

"Seek Ye the Lord"

Chancel Choir and soloist

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

Amen.

text from Isaiah 55:6-7; music by John Varley Roberts, 1890

*** Gloria Patri 735**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*** Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

*** Scripture reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

Brad Cobb

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Mystery of Lawlessness and the Certainty of Christ"

Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. A caution to the modern reader
 - Don't be confused: This is more pastoral than predictive.
2. A comfort for all believers
 - Don't be shaken: The Lord Jesus will bring evil to nothing by his coming and you won't miss it.
3. A challenge to all hearers
 - Don't be deceived: The mystery of lawlessness is at work.

For more on this topic, listen to the newest Pillar & Ground podcast episode, to be released tomorrow, November 3, featuring special guest Dr. Dan MacDougall, professor emeritus at Covenant College. Listen to Pillar & Ground wherever you get your podcasts.

Pastoral prayer

This morning we celebrate the Lord's Supper. This celebration is a sacred time during which God's people enjoy communion with him and unity with each other. We believe that the Lord's Supper is meant for the body of Christ as a gathered, corporate reality and not merely for personal or individual edification. For this reason, the livestream is ending at the conclusion of the sermon and will not include the celebration of the sacrament.

Musicians for this week:

William Darby – soloist
Ellen Francisco – violin
Jeremy Francisco – clarinet

Brett Hyberger – choral director
Joshua Knight – organ

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Suzanne Dickas

October 29, 1945 – October 24, 2025

The rosebuds in the service today are for the birth of Henry DuBose Marshall, born to Rochelle and Cal Marshall on October 25, and for the birth of Theoden Benjamin Ray, born to Melanie and Ben Ray on October 26.

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.

ANTICIPATING ADVENT: All LMPC women are welcome to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 20 in the fellowship hall for an evening anticipating the advent season. We will have dessert and decaf, assemble fresh advent wreaths together, and hear a devotional from Christy Gambrell to prepare our hearts. Please register on Realm Connect by Nov. 18 for \$15 and indicate if you can contribute any greenery.

BOXES OF BLESSING RETURNS! This much-anticipated large-scale ministry project has three opportunities to serve this year:

- Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at LMPC to prepare items for the boxes (envelopes, candy canes, etc.)
- Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga Bakery to tape boxes and assist with warehouse set-up
- Saturday, December 6 with three shifts available (8:00 to 10:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or 1:30 to 3:45 p.m.) for the main event: filling food boxes in an assembly line at the Chattanooga Bakery

Registration opens on Realm Connect on Monday, November 3. Find more information at lmpc.org/boxes-of-blessing.

LMPC WOMEN—SAVE THE DATE: Sacred Studio is an in-town retreat on January 23–24 based upon an event at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Birmingham by the same name. “Sacred” means “to connect with God” and “Studio” means “a place to create.” This weekend will attempt to give women the opportunity to do both through fellowship over good meals, Gospel teaching, and over 12 creative workshops (“studios”). Participants will choose two studios to complete, as we learn more about the Creator and who we are as women created in his image. More information to follow.

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

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Centuries ago, believers developed what is now known as the “Calendar of the Church Year.” It was designed to assist both unlearned and illiterate believers in mastering the truths of the Kingdom of God by causing them to “walk through” the events of redemptive history. All Saints’ Day, November 1, was chosen to call all believers to remember the faithful saints who had already finished their race and gone home to heaven. On All Saints’ Sunday we join the historic practice and recall the lives of our members who have gone on to glory in the past year.

Mike Aiken — July 21, 2025
Betsy Caldwell — September 7, 2025
Polly Cordes — July 31, 2025
Suzanne Dickas — October 24, 2025
Roger Gulick — March 21, 2025
Lisa Hailey — June 30, 2025
Sarah Hooper — April 1, 2025
Peggy Jones — August 8, 2025
Gini Love — April 12, 2025
Barb MacDougall — January 28, 2025

Hugh Maclellan — April 4, 2025
Jack Muller — August 25, 2025
Carol Mutter — November 3, 2024
Alice O’Ferrall — September 2, 2025
Mary Payne — June 6, 2025
Pat Persinger — April 12, 2025
Mary Ann Rennick — March 1, 2025
Shelia Snow — June 17, 2025
Betty Jane Stewart — August 14, 2025
John Tolson — April 19, 2025