



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*O God, who hast so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us,
give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works,
a continual thankoffering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

—from Presbyterian Directory for Worship, 1647

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Let All Things Now Living”

arr. Frank Stoldt

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #125)

Welcome and greetings

Brian Salter, lead pastor

* Call to worship

from Psalm 118

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

All: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

All: You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

* Hymn of praise 116, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light, *Refrain*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain*

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely giv’n,
graces human and divine, flow’rs of earth and buds of heav’n, *Refrain*
text by Follitt Pierpoint, 1864; music by Conrad Kocher, 1838, DIX

* Prayer of adoration

Affirmation of faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, question one

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Call to confession

based on 1 Peter 1 and 2

We have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. Therefore, let us rid ourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, let us crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it we may grow up in our salvation, now that we have tasted that the Lord 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 1 Peter 1

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

*** Hymn of assurance 264**

“Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross”

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all—a healing stream—flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever;
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the Bright and Morning Star shed its beams around me. *Refrain*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*
text by Fanny J. Crosby, 1869; music by William H. Doane, 1869, NEAR THE CROSS

Worship in the giving of God’s tithes and our offerings

Offertory

“Sweet Are the Prayers of a Friend”

Chancel Choir & soloist

Oo, sweet are the prayers of a friend.
How sweet are the prayers that are offered up by a friend,
by a friend who calls, calling up to heav’n, calling, “Lord, come down and bless again.”

Friends pray for healing; they pray revealing the heavy burdens of our souls.
They pray for courage, unfailing courage, asking God to make us whole.
O how sweet are the prayers that are offered up by a friend,
by a friend who calls, calling up to heav’n, calling, “Lord, come down and bless again.”

Friends pray us through troubles, through all our struggles when life seems to fall apart.
They pray us through grieving, always believing, our God can heal the broken heart.
How sweet are the prayers that are offered up by a friend,
by a friend who calls, calling up to heav’n, calling, “Lord, come down and bless again.”
text and music by Pepper Choplin ©2018 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**

⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” ²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶Already the one who reaps is receiving

wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Jesus the Church Planter: The Father Is Seeking"
Curt Stapleton, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church

1. The intervention (vv. 7-15)
2. The invitation (vv. 16-38)
3. The implantation (vv. 39-42)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 521**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*
text by Edward Mote, 1834; music by William B. Bradbury, 1863, SOLID ROCK

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“Nun danket alle Gott” from Cantata No. 79
J. S. Bach, arr. C. H. Trevor
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #98)

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director
Joshua Knight – organ

Kristin Wykoff – soloist

SANCTUARY GUEST SPEAKER: CURT STAPLETON

PASTOR OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ATHENS, TN

Curt grew up at Trinity PCA in Maryville, TN. In 1988, he began testing his gifts for Gospel ministry, serving in several college ministries and in a few churches. After seminary and serving 9 years with Reformed University Fellowship, Curt served as the Associate Pastor of Westminster PCA in Johnson City, TN, for 5 years. In 2008, with his family of six, he and his wife, Suzi, planted Mercy PCA in Morgantown, WV, where he served another nine years as their lead pastor. In 2022, they began planting Redeemer in Athens, TN. After a year doing outreach and evangelism, Redeemer began worship in November of 2022. In August of 2024, with the help of donors, their core group bought a building for Redeemer PCA in Athens.

FELLOWSHIP HALL GUEST SPEAKER: ROB HERRON

PASTOR OF MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KNOXVILLE, TN

Rob was previously the Assistant Pastor at Redeemer Church of Knoxville. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Covenant Theological Seminary. He has also served as Youth Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Athens, GA) and Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Appalachian State University. He and his wife, Mary Lee, have two children, Robert and Fay. In May, Rob was called to serve as the Church Planter of Mercy Presbyterian Church in the Fountain City neighborhood of Knoxville.

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Erica Joy Vazquez, born to Blair and Lucas Vazquez on November 18.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOXES OF BLESSING shifts for Saturday, December 6 are filling up but waitlists are available, so please continue to register on Realm Connect if you can come and serve. Find details at lmpc.org.

ADVENT WEEKLY REFLECTIONS: For the next four weeks, ushers will hand out printed Advent Reflections as you exit the service. This resource includes readings, art, song links, and more. Use the Reflection each week for family devotions, small group study, and/or individual use leading into the next Sunday morning. There is a section in each Reflection specifically for children. If you'd rather view this online, find it alongside each Sunday's resources at lmpc.org/sermons. For more on Advent at LMPC, listen to the November 17 episode of the Pillar & Ground podcast.

THE LMPC SESSION recently and unanimously passed the new "Policy on Political Life and Christian Witness" to help guide our engagement with social and political issues in today's culture. Download tomorrow's episode of the Pillar & Ground podcast, featuring guest host and vice-moderator of the Session, Glenn Breazeale, joined by elders Derek Halvorson and Steve Kaufmann.

DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, all activities on Wednesday, November 26 are cancelled except for Wednesday Evening Prayer in Room 212 at 6:00 p.m. The church office will be closed on November 27 and 28.

WOMEN OF LMPC, we will meet at Canopy Coffee on Tuesday, December 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for our Christmas gathering. Snacks will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase. No registration required.

FAMILY NIGHT will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at 5:45 p.m. We will enjoy pizza together before playing bingo for prizes. Please register on Realm Connect by December 1; regular dinner rates apply and gluten-free/dairy-free options are available.

VIPS, THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will eat together before hearing from a special children's ensemble. Please register on Realm Connect or call the church office by December 4. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from LMPC and the community.*

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION toward Christmas flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please do so through Realm Connect by December 14. For more information, please call the church office or email margaretcompton@lmpc.org.

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