



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Merciful Lord, the comforter and teacher of your faithful people, increase in your church the desires which you have given, and confirm the hearts of those who hope in you by enabling them to understand the depth of your promises, that all of your adopted children may even now behold, with the eyes of faith, and patiently wait for, the light which as yet you do not openly manifest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—from a prayer by St. Ambrose

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele”

arr. Egil Hovland

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #197)

Welcome and greetings

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

* Call to worship

from Psalm 33

Leader: Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

All: For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

Leader: Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

All: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

* Hymn of praise 193

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Liturgy of St. James, 5th century; French melody, 17th century; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906,
PICARDY

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

1 John 1:8–9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.

Silent prayers of confession

* Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

from 2 Timothy 1

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have
done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in
Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through
the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has
brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

* Hymn of assurance 197

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

text by Johannes Olearius, 1671, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551,
arr. Henry A. Bruinsma, 1990, THIRSTING

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for. “Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land, and he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”

Advent prayer

Leader: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever present with us by your Spirit, we rejoice in hope at your coming.

All: **You, LORD, are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?**

Leader: Remove all that hinders us from worshiping you in spirit and truth this season, and make us ready for your return.

All: **You, LORD, are our stronghold; of whom shall we be afraid?**

Leader: Give us a glimpse now, during this season, of the glory that we will someday see in full when all will be made new through Christ, our Lord and our Light.

All: **We believe that we shall see your goodness, O LORD, in the land of the living. We wait for you; give us strength, and fill us with courage as we wait for you! Amen.**

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and Psalm 27

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

Offertory

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Chancel Choir

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*
text and music by Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Paul Manz, © 2000 Birnamwood Publications, CCLI Lic.

#152036, HOUSTON

*** 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 John 1:1-5**

Margaret Compton

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Waiting for the Word"
Brian Salter, lead pastor

We wait expectantly for the Word who:

1. exists eternally. (vv. 1-2)
2. creates all things. (v. 3)
3. shines light in the darkness. (vv. 4-5)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 195**

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

text based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719; music by George F. Handel, 1742, ANTIOCH

*** Benediction**

*** Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

*** Postlude**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Robert Powell

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #194)

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ

NEW SERMON SERIES—GOSPEL OF JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

John wrote his Gospel so that ordinary people, like us, might see Jesus clearly and believe in him deeply. In “That You May Believe,” we’ll journey together through the stories, miracles, and encounters that reveal the heart of our Savior and the beauty of his grace. Along the way, we’ll see how Jesus meets us in our doubts and desires, speaks truth into our confusion, and draws us into a life shaped by his love. Come discover the One who offers true life that never ends.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2025

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Sunday, December 7

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

nursery available

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 14

5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

nursery available

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21

time and locations TBD

CHRISTMAS EVE*

Wednesday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

nursery available

**The Session has approved an increase to four live services on Christmas Eve, similar to a typical Sunday schedule, in order to engage people graciously and make for a more hospitable experience as we worship together.*

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Isaac Lee Basey, born to Lauren and Jeff Basey on November 24.

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025

Total 2025 Budget: \$5,633,000

2025 Gifts Received: \$4,073,828

Remaining Gifts Needed: \$1,559,172

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$1,206,726

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

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages until January 4. During the month of December, nursery will operate normally for service times but will NOT be offered during the Sunday School hour (10:00–10:45 a.m.). Please pick up your child(ren) from the nursery as soon as the service is ended.

ADVENT WEEKLY REFLECTIONS: As you exit the service, ushers will hand out Week 2 of our Advent Reflections. This resource includes readings, art, song links, a children's section, and more. Use the Reflection each week for family devotions, small group study, and/or individual use leading into the next Sunday morning. If you'd rather view this online, find it alongside each Sunday's resources at lmpc.org/sermons. If you missed it, copies of Week 1 are available in the fellowship hall lobby and Narthex.

ALL WOMEN OF LMPC are invited to our annual Christmas gathering at Canopy Coffee on Tuesday, December 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 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. After lunch, we'll hear from a special children's ensemble. Register on Realm Connect or by calling the church office by December 4. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from LMPC and the community.*

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the end of each worship service on Sunday, December 14, for the two-fold purpose of approving nominees for the offices of elder and deacon for the class of 2029 and electing a member-at-large to serve as a director on the board of LMPC, Inc. Those men approved to stand for office will undergo training in the new year.

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.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC membership class is scheduled to be held as a Sunday School elective from January 4 through February 22. If you are interested, please register on Realm Connect by December 23.

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