



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

## *Presbyterian Church*

### IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Waiting, as we see it in the people on the first pages of the Gospel, is waiting with a sense of promise. People who wait have received a promise that allows them to wait. They have received something that is at work in them, like a seed that has started to grow. This is very important. We can only really wait if what we are waiting for has already begun for us.*

*—Henri Nouwen*

DECEMBER 7, 2025 • FELLOWSHIP HALL SERVICE • 8:45 AND 11:00 A.M.

**WELCOME TO LMPC!** *We're so glad you are with us today. Please scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to share important information with us through an online form. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God. We encourage you to read the text on the front of the bulletin as we prepare to worship together.*

**CHILDCARE:** *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to crayons and children's bulletins.*

*\* Congregation standing as you are able*

## Order of Worship

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**Welcome and greetings**

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministries

**\* Call to worship**

based on Psalm 98 and Luke 1

**Leader:** Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**All:** **The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his  
righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his  
faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

**Leader:** Our souls glorify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

**All:** **The Mighty One has done great things for us—holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation!**

**\* Hymn of praise**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.  
*text based on Psalm 24, by Georg Weissel, 1642; from Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789*

**\* Prayer of adoration**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Advent prayer

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

All: **O Eternal King, even in the midst of the shadows around us, your justice is dawning.**

Leader: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.

All: **Fill us with wonder at your coming, and let our celebrations in this season spread new hope to a weary world.**

Leader: We long for your return when all will be set right.

All: **By your Spirit, teach us to embody your love as we eagerly await that day, when the sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to us by night. For the LORD will be our everlasting light, and our God will be our glory. Amen.**

*adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and Isaiah 60*

### Call to offering

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

**Offertory hymn**

**“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”**

*(Ref.)*



Hail to the Lord's A - noin - ted, great Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail, in the  
time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!\_\_\_\_\_

1.He comes to break\_\_\_\_\_ op - press - ion, to set the cap - tive free,  
2.He comes with com - fort speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;  
3.To give them songs\_\_\_\_\_ for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
4.The tide of time\_\_\_\_\_ shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way\_\_\_\_\_ trans - gress - ion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
to help the poor\_\_\_\_\_ and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.  
whose souls, con - demned\_\_\_\_\_ and dy - ing, were pre - cious in\_\_\_\_\_ his sight.  
his name shall stand\_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er; that name to us\_\_\_\_\_ is Love.

*text based on Psalm 72 by James Montgomery, 1822; music by Sandra McCracken, 2012*

**\* Scripture reading from John 1:6-9**

*text printed in the bulletin*

Rebekah Risley (8:45)

Annie Darby (11:00)

**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 Light”**

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

**Pastoral prayer**

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.*

*Those seated in the side sections will come forward to be served first, followed by the three center sections, beginning with those in the back rows and finishing with the front rows. Come down the center two aisles, partake of the elements, and return to your seat by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward for any reason, alert the elder circulating with the elements, and he will serve you at your seat. The bread is gluten-free and dairy-free. When you come to receive from this table of grace, please meditate on the words of the hymns and prepare your hearts as the musicians play and sing. Men and women will be available in the fellowship hall lobby to pray with you, should you desire that.*

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

#### Hymn of confession

"Come, O Redeemer, Come"

Father enthroned on high, holy, holy;  
ancient, eternal Light, hear our prayer.

*Refrain:* Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us mercy.  
Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark of our striving,  
faithless, troubled hearts weighed down. *Refrain*

Look now upon our need; Lord be with us.

Heal us and make us free from our sin. *Refrain*

text and music by Fernando Ortega © 1996 Metro One, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

#### Silent prayers of confession

#### Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Colossians 1

God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

#### Words of institution

## Communion affirmation

**Leader:** It is our greatest joy to give our God thanks and praise. In the fullness of time, he sent his only Son to be our Emmanuel, making for us a highway in the wilderness, where we, once-captive, may return with songs of joy. In Christ Jesus, we have seen and heard the good news of God: the sick are healed, strangers are welcomed, the poor have hope, and the dead are raised to new life.

**All:** **In this meal, we remember our Savior’s coming, dying, and rising. We are nourished to live as children of truth and light, to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, and to spread this good news of redemption throughout the world. We wait for the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven and seek to be faithful and alert for that glad hour.**

**Therefore, we praise him, our Light and our Life, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*adapted from Eucharistic Prayers for Advent*

## Prayer of consecration

### Distribution of the elements

Songs for meditation

### “Come Light Our Hearts”

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you. Truly our hope is in you.  
O Lord of life, our only hope, your radiance shines  
on all who look to you in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you. Truly our hope is in you.  
O Joy above all other loves, in you we find  
more than enough. We come as we are.  
O heal and restore, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves, in you we find  
more than enough. We come as we are.  
O heal and restore, come light our hearts.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you. Truly our hope is in you. Truly our hope is in you.  
*text and music by Sandra McCracken, 2015 © Drink Your Tea Music CCLI Lic. # 152036*

“He Is Making All Things Right”

Hail the rightful ruler: Christ who came to save!  
King of truth and justice, Lord of love and grace.  
He who bore the cross to bring his people peace,  
broke the chains of sin and set the captive free.

*Refrain:* He is making all things right; he is making all things right.  
In his goodness, in his time, he is making all things right.

Hail the humble shepherd, bending low to serve,  
bread for all our hunger, water for our thirst.  
He who helps his neighbor loves the least of these,  
welcomes in the stranger, sets the captive free. *Refrain*

Hail the coming Savior: hope of ev'ry heart,  
healer of the nations, bright and morning star.  
He will win the battle, put the world at peace,  
finally and forever, set the captive free! *Refrain*

*text and music by Bryan Fowler, Skye Peterson, Ben Shive, 2024 © Be Essential Songs, CCLI Lic. # 152036*

\* **Prayer of thanksgiving**

\* **Hymn of praise**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Latin, 12th century, translated by John Mason Neale, 1851; Plainsong, 13th century*

**\* Benediction**

**\* 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.**

**\* Postlude**

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**Musicians for this week:**

**David Henry** – guitar, vocals

**Ellie Henry** – vocals

**Jonah Hitchcock** – cello

**Hannah Lutz** – viola

**Hallie Blair Quatro** – vocals

**Jeremy Taylor** – piano

**John 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

**SERMON NOTES**  
“Waiting for the Light”  
*John 1:6-9*

We wait expectantly for the Light who:

1. sent witnesses. (vv. 6-8)

2. came into the world. (v. 9)

*Further Up, Further In,*  
Resources for  
Continued Study



## 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.*

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOIN US THIS EVENING** for our annual Christmas Hymn Sing at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Nursery is provided.

**DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, NURSERY** will operate normally for service times but will NOT be offered during the 10:00 a.m. hour, since Sunday School will not resume until January. 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 3 of our Advent Reflections. 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](http://lmpc.org/sermons). Copies of previous weeks are available in the fellowship hall lobby and Narthex.

**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. The final election to office will take place in April 2026. The new director will assume that office on January 1, 2026.

**COME TO OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and enjoy the sounds of the season with our Chancel Choir, Girls' Ensemble, Children's Choir, and Handbell Ensemble! We will gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Nursery is provided.

**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 in joining LMPC, please register on Realm Connect by December 23.

**A SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP SERIES** will be held February 6 through 8 featuring Dr. Jana Pressley. Save the date for this opportunity; more information to come. Dr. Pressley will discuss the holistic impact of chronic, relational trauma and the way that it shapes our functioning. Practical application will focus on supporting individuals in the context of the church community.

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/events](http://lmpc.org/events).*

## TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, December 7

8:45 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
10:00 a.m.	Prayer room.....	Room 212
11:00 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
3:00 p.m.	Handbell Ensemble practice .....	Choir Room
6:00 p.m.	Christmas Hymn Sing.....	fellowship hall
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group.....	JHYB

For more events this week, visit [lmpc.org/events](http://lmpc.org/events); for information on groups and classes, visit [lmpc.org/groups](http://lmpc.org/groups).

## JOIN REALM CONNECT

Do you have a Realm Connect account? Join our invitation-only networking site to access the LMPC online directory, manage giving, register for events, and fill out your Serving profile. Request your account today by visiting [lmpc.org/realm](http://lmpc.org/realm).

## WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



## OUR MISSION

*Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away  
on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.*

## CONTACT US

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue  
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Phone: 423.821.4528

Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services. Devices to amplify sound are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.