



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

## *Presbyterian Church*

### IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*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 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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**Prelude**

“People, Look East”  
*arr. Robert Hobby*

**Welcome and greetings**

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

\* **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 198**, vv. 1, 5, 6

“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; music from Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789, TRURO*

\* **Prayer of adoration**

**Advent candle lighting**

from Isaiah 35

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

Proverbs 23:4-5

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

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Chancel Choir

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
as stars on their courses illumine the night.  
The vastness of time through infinite space,  
the universe dances with myst'ry and grace.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe  
as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn.  
It shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace,  
and bids me to wonder, "Is this Gift for me?"

Emmanuel...

The gift in the manger is given for all,  
the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.  
Christ bids to our stone hearts, "Come soften and give,"  
and offers his own heart, so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
how the light of the heavens is born in this Child.  
The universe dances with glory and grace,  
and I gaze in the manger and see Love's face.

Emmanuel...

I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

I wonder under the sky.

*text and music by John Jacob Niles, 1933; alt. text and arr. Kyle Pederson ©2025 G. Shirmer, Inc. CCLI Lic.  
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**\* 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 John 1:6-9**

Jim Richter

<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.

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”

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

We wait expectantly for the Light who:

1. sent witnesses. (vv. 6-8)
2. came into the world. (v. 9)

**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.*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Ellen Francisco** – violin

**Brett Hyberger** – choral director

**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

## 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).*

## 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.*