



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly, you hide not your face from the poor; those who dwell in darkness you call into the light. Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts, and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son, we may recognize him in our midst and find joy in his saving presence.

*We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. —from Opening Prayers*

DECEMBER 21, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

Prelude on “Divinum Mysterium”

John Watkinson

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #162)

Welcome and greetings

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

* Call to worship

based on Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

All: We will praise the LORD all our lives; we will sing praise to our God as long as we live.

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

All: The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow. The LORD reigns forever, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

* Hymn of praise

“Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes”



1. Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior prom - ised long!___
2. He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's bond - age held;___
3. He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul___ to cure,___
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall___ pro - claim,___



___ Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare___ a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
___ the gates of brass be - fore___ him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
___ and with___ the trea - sures of___ his grace, to en - rich___ the hum - ble poor.
___ and heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy___ be - lov - ed name.

*** Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

based on Titus 2

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, a people eager to do what is good.

Silent prayers of confession

*** Assurance of God’s pardoning grace**

from Titus 3:4-7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

*** 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*

Advent candle lighting

from James 5 and Isaiah 12

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Advent prayer

Leader: O Lord our Lord, you are among us. You have come to us, fully God and fully man, to live as we do—to walk on the earth, to breathe in the air, to embody the deepest parts of human experience. You have also given us your Spirit, who lives in us and is with us always, uniting us to you every moment of every day.

All: **You are the light of the world. Whoever follows you will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**

Leader: Impress on our hearts how precious this gift of yourself is. Help us to slow down and fully revel in the good news that we have been given the light of life.

All: **Guide our hearts to sense and delight in your nearness to us this season. Teach us to walk in the light, as you are in the light, as we eagerly anticipate being in your presence for all eternity.**

based on John 8 and 1 John 1

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

Offertory

"The Wexford Carol"

Chancel Choir

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray, to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,
to whom God's angel did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.

“Prepare and go,” the angels said, “to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus, born.”

With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.

Within a manger he was laid, and by his side a virgin maid

attending on the Lord of Life, who came on earth to end all strife.

*text and music from traditional Irish carol, arr. Howard Helvey ©2014 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**

*** Scripture reading from John 1:14-18**

Brett Hyberger

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore
witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes
after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was
given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has
made him known.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“The Fullness of God's Glory and Grace”

Brian Salter, lead pastor

When the Word entered the world, he revealed:

1. the fullness of God's glory. (vv. 14-15, 18)
2. the fullness of God's grace. (vv. 16-17)

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**

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

arr. David N. Johnson

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings.
Hail! Christ the Lord; thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings!

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Freeman Salt Doster, born to Caroline and Cross Doster on December 13.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME CAROL TODAY at 1:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe at Happy Valley or 3:15 p.m. at Thrive at Brow Wood. Or, come to both!

LAST WEEK WAS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, and 2026 pledge cards were distributed after the presentation. Today during the hymn of response, we will bring our pledge cards forward as an act of worship. Even if you update your pledge online at lmpc.org/give or through Realm Connect, we would invite you to bring a card forward. The goal is not to be showy, but for us to have a physical reminder that this is a part of our worship and that we do it together. More pledge cards are available in the fellowship hall lobby, sanctuary Narthex, and church office. Thank you for your support of the ministries and work of LMPC this year and in the year ahead!

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed December 24, 25, and 26 for Christmas, and January 1 and 2 for New Year's Day.

ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, join us for a Christmas Eve service at 3:00 or 5:00 p.m. in either the sanctuary or fellowship hall. Nursery will be provided and the 5:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed. During these services, the offering taken will be for the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund. This fund provides practical help for widows and ministry families in need across the PCA. We have previously collected for the Mercy Fund on Christmas Eve; this fund is currently at a healthy amount. If you would like to contribute, come prepared for that moment in the service.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SOON! Sunday School for children, youth, and adults will resume on January 4 at 10:00 a.m. Find a full list of classes and locations at lmpc.org/groups, where you may sort by category and age group. There is a new slate of adult electives.

SACRED STUDIO, an in-town retreat at LMPC on January 23 and 24, will give women the opportunity to connect over good food, Gospel teaching, and creative workshops. Please register on Realm Connect by January 15 to make your studio selections (first come, first served). Studios include mindful movement, iPhone photography, writing, collage, and more.

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Belva Bailey by Don Bailey Sr.

Peggy Christine Ballenger by Lee and Ross Ballenger

Vera and Marion Barnes by Elizabeth Ann and Stephen Barnes

Dick Bodine by Hilda and Marshall Jemison

Betsy Caulkins Bookout by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

Dr. Richard J. Bowers by Becky Bowers

Donnie Brock by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Mr. and Mrs. Winford Brock by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Brenda Brown by Kristy Presley

Walter Brice Burbank by the Walley family

Betsy Caldwell by Margaret, Jeff, Corley, Gracie, and Catherine Compton and the Walley family

Hardwick Caldwell by the Walley Family

Thomas M. Carr Jr. by Anne and Trey Carr, Caroline, Catherine, and Margaret and Ann Henley and Doug Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins III by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

Mrs. Peggy Chunn by Karen and Miller Welborn

Konnie Erickson by Dave Erickson and family

Family members in heaven by Jan and Keith Michaels

Lynda Fray by David Fray, Kristin and Dan Wykoff, Adalynn, Brooks, Isaiah, and Tiya

Roger Gulick by the Heald and Lindquist families

Lisa Durrett Hailey by Cindy and Jerry Evans

Merilyn and Ross Hall by Stephanie, David, and Sadie Wharton, and the Ben Wharton family

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Halvorson by Marni and Steve Halvorson

Dr. B. Daniel Harnsberger by his children and grandchildren

Charles H. Harris III by Lee and Ross Ballenger

Marian Harris by Lee and Ross Ballenger and Ann Henley and Doug Perry

Elizabeth Mills Bookout Hood by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

Frank Jemison by Hilda and Marshall Jemison

Bunny and Ted King by Hilda and Marshall Jemison

Dick Lindeman by his family

Nancy and Hugh O. Maclellan by the Heald and Lindquist families

Aaron Madaris by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Jack McEwen by Lori and Richard Krabbendam and Merrile and John Stroud

Corinne G. McGee by her huge Lookout Mountain family

Joseph Hardin Meadows by the Jeff Compton family

The Very Rev. and Mrs. Norman Milbank by Marni and Steve Halvorson

Betty and L.D. Miller Jr. by Becky Bowers

Carol Mutter by Mitch Mutter

Alice O'Ferrall by Carter, Glenn, Caroline, and Gigi Breazeale and the Doug Perry family

Larry Paulk by the Walley family

Beebe Phillips by Merrile and John Stroud

Bob Phillips by his children and grandchildren

Taylor Phillips by Merrile and John Stroud

Doug Sizemore by Evelyn Sizemore and Stephanie and Mike Nadeja

Jeff Stroud by Merrile and John Stroud

Joseph Stroud by Merrile and John Stroud

Len Teague by his family

Gregg Terry by Jessi and Andrew Cook

Martha and Richard Thatcher by Elizabeth and Carter Thatcher

Ellen Thompson by the Thompson family

John Tolson by his family and Jessi and Andrew Cook

Barbara Ann Vermeer by Ann and Dan Vermeer

Mr. A.W. Welborn Jr. by Karen and Miller Welborn

Robert A. Wharton Sr. by Stephanie, David, and Sadie Wharton, and the Ben Wharton family

Chandler White by Ann and Dan Vermeer

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Laura Bennett by Sadie Wharton

Catherine and Chip Kelley by Dana and Kristian Driver

Our children and their spouses by Ann Henley and Doug Perry

Sarah and James Stevens, Phoebe, Asher, Tripp, and Thad by Anne and Trey Carr, Caroline, Catherine, and Margaret

RESULTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON 12/14/25

We are glad to report that, after counting the ballots, we did have a quorum and the full slate of officer nominees was approved. On the same ballot, Laura Bailey was elected as a new director to serve a four-year term on the board of LMPC, Inc. The members approved to commence officer training for the class of 2029 are listed below:

ELDER NOMINEES

Stephen Barnes
Robby Bosshardt
Eric Ellis
Tripp Johnston
Dustin Koehl
Peter Lindquist
Grayson Lowery
John Stroud
David Wharton
Dan Wykoff

DEACON NOMINEES

Nathan Allison
Don Bailey ('28)
Thomas Clark
Chuck Denham ('28)
Alan Doak
Brent Faulk
Neil Groothuis
Tim Hewitt
Trey Lannae
Ben Wharton
Wes Young

GIVING UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 16, 2025

Total 2025 Budget: \$5,633,000
2025 Gifts Received: \$5,132,682
Remaining Gifts Needed: \$500,318
Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$176,076

Thank you for your generosity in 2025. If you would like to give toward the 2025 budget, please note that your gift must be received or postmarked by December 31. Thank you for your support of the ministry and work of our church.