



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

## *Presbyterian Church*

### IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.  
Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.  
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us. That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength  
we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

—attributed to Alcuin of York

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

\* Congregation standing as you are able

## Order of Worship

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### Prelude

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*arr. Dale Wood*

*(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #629)*

### Welcome and greetings

Robert Clark, ruling elder

### \* Call to worship

based on 1 Peter 1 and 1 Corinthians 8

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

All: **In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.**

Leader: There is one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.

All: **And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

### \* Hymn of praise 164, vv. 1-5

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner’s ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin, he sets the pris’ner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

*text by Charles Wesley, 1739; music by Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839, AZMON*

**\* Prayer of adoration**

**\* Affirmation of faith**

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The Apostles' Creed is so named because it summarizes what the apostles believed and taught in Jesus' name. The earliest versions of the Creed can be traced back to the 2nd century. We use the traditional translation of the Creed which contains some unfamiliar words: "quick" instead of "living" and "catholic" instead of "universal." Also, when we say that Christ "descended into hell," we are not saying that Jesus literally entered hell; instead, we are affirming that Jesus suffered all the pains and torments of hell as he endured the unmitigated wrath of God on the cross.*

**Call to confession**

from Colossians 3

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

**Hymn of confession 688, vv. 1, 2, 4**

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Master, today!  
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,  
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!  
*text by Adelaide A Pollard, 1902; music by George C. Stebbins, 1907, HOLY DESIRE*

### Prayer of confession

Leader: Lord, hear us as we pray together:

All: **O Lord Jesus, who came down from heaven to redeem us from all iniquity, forgive us for the ways we have consciously and unconsciously rejected your rule in our lives. We beseech you to write your Word on our hearts that we may know you, and the power of your resurrection, and to express it by turning from our sins. Rule in our hearts by faith, that being dead to sin and alive to righteousness, we may bear the fruit of holiness and grow in grace and in knowledge of you.**  
*adapted from a prayer by Henry Hammond*

### Silent prayers of confession

#### \* Assurance of God's pardoning grace

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

#### \* Hymn of assurance 172, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:  
he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,  
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
he has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;  
when through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:  
he who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;  
here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:  
"You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!"  
*text by John Newton, 1774; music from Darmstadt Gesangbuch, 1698, ALL SAINTS OLD*

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

Offertory

"All Things New"

Chancel Choir

Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross,  
sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wand'ring, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new.  
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.

Sight after myst'ry, sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain,  
near after distant, gleam after gloom, love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new.  
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.  
He is making all things new.

*text by Frances Havergal; music by Elaine Hagenberg © 2021 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 3:1-15

Brett Hyberger

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word**

#### **Sermon**

“New Birth”

Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The requirement of new birth: You must. (vv. 1-3)
2. The impossibility of new birth: You can’t. (vv. 4-8)
3. The remedy for new birth: He must. (vv. 9-15)

#### **Pastoral prayer**

\* **Hymn of response 529, vv. 1, 2, 4**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down:  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry trouble breast;  
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:  
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.  
*text by Charles Wesley, 1747; music by John Zundel, 1870, BEECHER*

\* **Benediction**

\* Congregational response

“Threefold Amen”

\* Postlude

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*arr. David Cherwien*

*(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #164)*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Brett Hyberger** – choral director

**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

We're grateful for those of you who gave so generously to LMPC in 2025. Our 2025 receipts exceeded budgeted income, and our 2025 expenses were under budget. The LMPC Finance Committee made a recommendation to the Session in January for how to handle the underspending and surplus income. Our Session voted and approved that underspending in Home and World Missions be returned to their reserves and the remainder of the funds be applied to our loan. Between RENEW pledges received and this excess income, we are able to make a \$2,500,000 debt payment and lower our line of credit from \$3,900,000 to \$1,400,000. Thanks be to God for his provision!

### **YEAR-END GIVING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**Annual Budget:** \$5,633,000

**2025 Receipts:** \$6,028,833

**2025 Expenses:** \$5,489,270

**Net Income:** \$539,563

### **2026 BUDGET**

**Annual Budget:** \$6,173,052

**2026 Pledges Received:** \$3,644,868 (59% of total budget)

**Number of Giving Units Pledged:** 224 (Total of 561 giving units at LMPC)

In 2025, we received pledges from 272 families. If you have not made a 2026 pledge yet, please consider how you might be able to contribute towards our mission of spreading God's glory on the mountain, in the city, and around the world this year. Find multiple ways to give at [lmpc.org/give](http://lmpc.org/give).

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VIPS, COME TO A CHEERFUL VALENTINE'S BRUNCH** at Lookout Mtn., GA, City Hall on February 13 at 10:30 a.m. Please register on Realm Connect or by calling the church office by February 9. Cost is \$5. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from LMPC and the community who meet bi-monthly for fun and fellowship.*

**CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER WILL HOST SPECIAL SPEAKER** Sarah Hines, social worker for Erlanger Neurology, on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 212. All are welcome; contact Lee Ballenger or Ed Salter for more information.

**WOMEN'S WINTER SUPPERS** will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. in individual homes. Invite your friends and neighbors and please register on Realm Connect by February 19. Can you host a supper? Email Caroline Scruggs, [caroline@lmpc.org](mailto:caroline@lmpc.org).

**THIS YEAR'S WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE**, held March 1-4, will spotlight India. The full calendar of activities is available at [lmpc.org/wmc](http://lmpc.org/wmc), with registration required for two events: a luncheon on Tuesday, March 3, and a dinner on Wednesday, March 4. We are excited to hear more of the Lord's work through Mission India, which seeks to reach communities through Children's Bible Clubs, Adult Literacy Classes, and Church Planting.

**A REDEEMING TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE** will be held May 1-3. Mark your calendars for this thoughtful and timely gathering to help us navigate technology with wisdom, discernment, and hope. We will welcome Robert Cunningham as our featured speaker.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:** July 21-23. We will welcome rising kindergarten through rising 6th graders for dinner, worship, and activity rotations from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Registration (\$20) will be available later this spring.

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