



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Are you not amazed sometimes that you should have so much as a hope, that, poor and needy as you are, the Lord thinks of you? But let not all you feel discourage you; for if our Physician is almighty, our disease cannot be desperate; and if he casts none out who come to him, why should you fear? Our sins are many, but his mercies are more. Our sins are great, but his righteousness is greater. We are weak, but he is power.

—John Newton

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

arr. Robert Lind

(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #167)

Welcome and greetings

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

* Call to worship

Psalm 95:1-7

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

All: **For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

All: **For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

* Hymn of praise 101

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.
text anonymous, ca. 1757; music by Felice de Giardini, 1769, TRINITY

*** Prayer of adoration**

Sacrament of baptism

Gaelin and Dakota Hardin bringing Easton Creed Hardin and Luna Charlotte Rose Hardin

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**

Romans 5:6–8

At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*** Hymn of assurance 498, vv. 1, 2, 5**

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict’ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*
text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

Prayer of intercession

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

Refrain: In my Father’s house are many dwellings,
and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father’s house are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you? *Refrain*

Where I am going, you know the way. For I am the way, the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you also know my Father. *Refrain*

My Spirit will be with you always.

The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth will remind you of all I have said.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.

I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me. *Refrain*

text from John 14; music by Philip W. J. Stopford, 2015

* 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 3:22-36

Warren McEwen

²²After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison). ²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.”

²⁷John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“He Must Increase”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. When Jesus displaces us: our fearful insecurity (vv. 22-26)
2. How we must respond when Jesus displaces us: humility and joy (vv. 27-30)
3. Why Jesus must displace us: the supremacy of the beloved, Spirit-filled Son (vv. 31-36)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 468**

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

My faith has found a resting place, from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the everliving One, his wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain: I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul I come to him, he’ll never cast me out. *Refrain*

My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God:
salvation by my Savior’s name, salvation thro’ his blood. *Refrain*

My great Physician heals the sick, the lost he came to save;
for me his precious blood he shed, for me his life he gave. *Refrain*
text by Lidie H. Edmunds, 1891; music by André Grétry, 1741-1831, arr. William J. Kirkpatrick, 1891,

LANDAS

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Fanfare and Chorale

Calvin Fuller

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ

Celebrating the baptisms of Easton Creed Hardin and Luna Charlotte Rose Hardin at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary today are their parents, Gaelin and Dakota Hardin, their grandparents, Sophie and Travis Knight and Paula and Mark Wilson, and their great-grandmother, Wanda Morrow.

Celebrating the baptism of Everett Scott Webb at the 8:45 service in the fellowship hall today are his parents, Emily and Scotty Webb Jr., and his grandparents, Mikki and Tim Brown and Sue and Scott Webb.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

AS WE MOVE THROUGH THE LENTEN SEASON, please take note of the sparse floral decor in the chancel area. This serves as a visual reminder of the simplicity of Lent: a time of prayer, reflection, and self-examining humility before we celebrate Christ's Resurrection Day in beauty and splendor.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE: Wishing to spend more time browsing in our church library? Drop in for as long as you like between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28. Tea and scones will be served, and there's no agenda other than discovering new books.

THIS YEAR'S WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE, held March 1-4, will spotlight India, specifically the work of our our partner ministry Mission India. The full calendar of activities is available at lmpc.org/wmc or as a handout in the sanctuary Narthex or fellowship hall lobby. Two events require registration: a Missions Lunch on Tuesday, March 3 at 11:30 a.m. and a Family Dinner on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m., both in the fellowship hall. Register on Realm Connect by March 2. There will also be a Men's Breakfast on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:45 a.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building; no registration needed.

ADULT COMMUNITY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin today at 10:00 a.m. Find locations/topics below.

Fellowship Class (Room 213)

Teacher: Dan Wykoff

Topic: "Genesis 43-50: The Beginning Ends"

Kingdom Class (chapel)

Teacher: Kelly Kapic

Topic: "Luke's Gospel: A Discussion-based Reflection"

Redeemer Class (Room 211)

Teacher: John Plating

Topic: "Jesus and the Kingdom of God"

Sojourner Class (Room 313)

Teachers: Stephen Barnes, Glenn Breazeale, Trey Carr, Jason Lehn, Doug Perry

Topic: "Guarding the Heart: Lessons from Solomon's Life"

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