LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We come before you, O God, confident in Christ's victory over sickness and death.
Heal us again from sin, which divides us, and from prejudice, which isolates us.
Bring us to wholeness of life through the pardon you grant your people.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
—Opening Prayers

OCTOBER 18, 2026 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

** Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

Prelude "Declare His Glory"
Mary McDonald
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #30)

*** Call to worship** taken from Psalm 9

Leader: We will praise you, O LORD, with our whole hearts; we will tell of all your wonders.

All: We will be glad and rejoice in you; we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Leader: The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

All: Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

*** Hymn of praise 53,** vv. 1, 2, 3, 5 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly fore'er we adore him.

text by Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; music in Stralsund Gesangbuch, *1665,* LOBE DEN HERREN

*** Prayer of adoration**

*** Affirmation of faith** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call to confession Isaiah 64:6 and Joel 2:12-13

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Hymn of confession 501, vv. 1, 2, 5 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
text by Charlotte Elliott, 1836; music by William B. Bradbury, 1849, WOODWORTH

Prayer of confession

Leader: As we come to you today to confess our weakness and rebellion against you, we thank you that you have chosen to love desperate sinners like ourselves.

All: Your loving determination to rescue us from our sin gives us the courage to admit the profound depravity of our desires, thoughts, and actions.

Leader: We are people who want our kingdoms to come and our wills to be done.

All: Instead of pursuing your wisdom with all our strength, we are delighted by our own wisdom and impressed with our own understanding.

Leader: We try to earn your love rather than resting in the radiant worthiness of your Son.

All: Father, forgive us. Give us eyes to behold our risen Lamb, perfect, spotless, and worthy to receive all our worship, love, and praise.
adapted from Prone to Wander*, Duguid and Houk*

Silent prayers of confession

*** Assurance of God's pardoning grace** 1 John 4:9-10, 15

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

*** Hymn of assurance 708** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.
text by George Matheson, 1882; music by Albert L. Peace, 1885, ST. MARGARET

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

Offertory "Lord, I Was Blind" Chancel Choir

Lord, I was blind; I could not see in your marred visage any grace.
But now the beauty of your face in radiant splendor dawns on me.
Once I was blind, but now I see!

Lord, I was deaf; I could not hear the thrilling music of your voice.
But now I hear you and rejoice, and all your tender words are clear.
Once I was deaf, but now I hear!

Lord, I was mute; I could not sing the grace and glory of your name.
But now, as touched with living flame, my lips shall praise my God and King!
Once I was mute, but now I sing!

Lord, I was dead; I could not raise my lifeless soul from sin's cold grave.
Naught but the gift of life you gave could e'er have raised me up.
The pow'r of your redeeming love raised me to life, and now I live!

Lord, I was dead, mute, deaf, blind. But now I see, I see!
text by William T. Matson, 1833–1899, adapt. David Rasbach; music by David Rasbach *©2013 Choristers Guild, 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 9:24-41** Brett Hyberger

> [24]So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to
> him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." [25]He answered,
> "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I
> was blind, now I see." [26]They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he
> open your eyes?" [27]He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would
> not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his
> disciples?" [28]And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are
> disciples of Moses. [29]We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this
> man, we do not know where he comes from." [30]The man answered, "Why,
> this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he
> opened my eyes. [31]We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is
> a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. [32]Never since the world
> began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. [33]If
> this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34]They answered him, "You
> were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.
>
> [35]Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do
> you believe in the Son of Man?" [36]He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may
> believe in him?" [37]Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is
> speaking to you." [38]He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.
>
> [39]Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see
> may see, and those who see may become blind." [40]Some of the Pharisees near
> him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" [41]Jesus said to
> them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We
> see,' your guilt remains."
>
> This is the Word of the Lord.
> **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon "Who Sees?"
Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The blind man who now sees is:
   - cast out. (vv. 24-34)
   - sought out. (vv. 35-38)

2. The religious people who think they see are:

   - called out. (vv. 39-41)

Pastoral prayer

*** Hymn of response 642,** vv. 1, 2, 4, 5 "Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.
Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent; Traditional Irish melody, SLANE

*** Benediction**

*** Congregational response** "Threefold Amen"

*** Postlude** Toccata on "Amazing Grace!"
J. Christopher Pardini
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #460)

Musicians for this week:

Brett Hyberger – choral director **Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

The flowers in the service today are given in honor of Frank Hitchings and his 35 years of faithful pastoral ministry at LMPC.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR FRANK HITCHINGS will be held today at 5:30 p.m. Join us for a hymn sing in the fellowship hall followed by a milk and cookies reception. Nursery will be available. If you'd like to bring a note for Frank, we will collect them for him to read.

WOMEN, GET AWAY FROM THE NOISE and pace of life at a Semi-Silent Retreat. Come to Rising Fawn Gardens on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to rest and spend time with the Lord. Cost is $25 (breakfast is included) and space is limited; please register on Realm Connect.

THE ANNUAL REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, on Sunday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m. A festival choir and orchestra comprised of musicians from LMPC, First Presbyterian, and Covenant College will lead us in great hymns of faith. Foundational readings and Scripture will remind us of the important significance of this day. Come and worship together.

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