

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 27, 2020 | Fellowship Hall Service

Order of Worship

Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

*** Call to worship**

based on Psalm 86 and Psalm 89

Leader: There is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

All: **We will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with our mouths we will make your faithfulness known through all generations. We will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

Leader: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

All: **We rejoice in your name all day long for you are our glory and strength. We will sing of the LORD's great love forever.**

* Hymn of praise

"Our Great God"



1. E - ter - nal God, un - chang - ing, mys - ter - ious and un - known; your
2. Lord we are weak and frail, help - less in the storm. Sur -
3. Let ev - ery crea - ture in the sea, and ev - ery fly - ing bird; let



bound - less love un - fail - ing, in grace and mer - cy shown. Bright ser - a -
round us with your an - gels, hold us in your arms. Our cold and
ev - ery moun - tain, ev - er - y field and val - ley of the earth; let all the



phim in end - less flight a - round your glo - rious throne, they raise their voic - es
ruth - less en - e - my his plea - sure is our harm. Rise up, O Lord, and
moons and all the stars in all the u - ni - verse sing prais - es to the



day and night in praise to you a - lone. Hal - le - lu - jah,
he will flee be - fore our so - vereign God.
liv - ing God who rules them by his word.



— glo - ry be to our great God. Hal - le - lu -



- jah, glo - ry be to our great God.

text and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell © 2002 Word Music, LLC, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

* Prayer of adoration

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Hymn of confession

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy_ law's de - mands;
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy_ cross I cling;

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and_ pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I___ die.

text by Augustus Toplady, 1776; music by James Ward, 1984

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

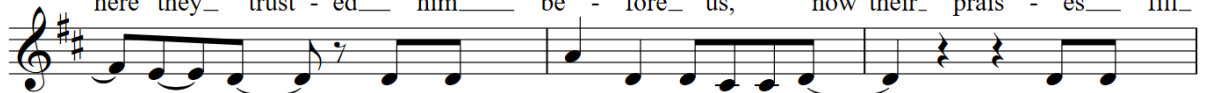
"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"



1. Let us love and sing and won - der, let us praise the Sa - vior's name.
 2. Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when en - e - mies,
 3. Let us won - der; grace and just - ice join and point to mer - cy's store;
 4. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus of the saints en - throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der, he has quenched Mount Si -
 called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave
 when through grace in Christ our trust is, just - ice smiles and asks
 here they trust - ed him be - fore us, now their prais - es fill



- nai's flame: he has washed us with his blood, he has
 us eyes: he has washed us with his blood, he has
 no more: he who washed us with his blood, he who
 the sky: "Thou hast washed us with thy blood, thou hast



washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood,
 washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood,
 washed us with his blood, he who washed us with his blood,
 washed us with thy blood, thou hast washed us with thy blood,



he has brought us nigh to God.
 he pre - sents our souls to God.
 has se - cured our way to God.
 thou art wor - thy, Lamb of God."

text by John Newton, 1774; music by Laura Taylor, 2001

Sacrament of baptism

Margaret and Grayson Lowery bringing Poppy Lanier Lowery

²³About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. ²⁴A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. ²⁵He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. ²⁷There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

²⁸When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. ³⁰Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. ³¹Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

³²The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. ³³The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. ³⁴But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ³⁵The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? ³⁶Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash. ³⁷You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. ³⁸If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. ³⁹If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. ⁴⁰As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of today's events. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." ⁴¹After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“The Reality of Spiritual Counterfeits”

Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The logic of spiritual counterfeits (vv. 23-27)
 - The spiritual counterfeits **reject loss** brought on by outsiders as far too costly (protective investing).
 - Those in the Gospel Kingdom **accept loss** as a price worth paying for the glory of God *and* the good of outsiders (redemptive suffering).
2. The passion of spiritual counterfeits (vv. 28-31)
 - In self-protective fear, the spiritual counterfeits enflame the passions of many in order to stop a few enemies.
 - With Spirit-empowered faith, those in the Gospel Kingdom are able to face the threats of many with courage: they truly seek to serve and bring the Gospel to their enemies.
3. God overrules the spiritual counterfeits (vv. 32-41)
 - God is sovereign over all: he can even use the self-protective actions of his enemies to protect his people. (“Even the wrath of man shall praise you...” Psalm 76:10)

“We resemble what we revere, either for ruin or restoration.”

—Dr. Greg Beale, *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*

BIG IDEA: Spiritual counterfeits rage and riot, but are finally overruled by the true King.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ris - en King, who de - light to bring him
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing through the
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the



praise. Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of
night. Come, those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the
faith. Come, those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his



grace. From the shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where
fight. For his per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but
grace. O - ver all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to__ ga - ther child - ren in. Re - joice! Re -
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our__ God is all in all."



joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joice! One heart, one voice; O, Church of Christ, re - joice!

*text and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music, LLC, ARR, UBP, CCLI
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* Benediction

* 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.**

* Postlude

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Abi Davis – clarinet

Grady Dickinson – alto saxophone

David Henry – guitar, vocalist

Hannah Lutz – viola

Hannah Pulliam – vocalist

Charlotte Reeder – vocalist

John Reeder – piano

IN MEMORIAM

Julia Sellers Hailey

April 1, 1927 – September 21, 2020

Celebrating the baptism of Poppy Lanier Lowery at the 9:00 service in the fellowship hall today are her parents, Margaret and Grayson Lowery, her grandparents, Karen and Miller Welborn and Josie and Todd Lowery, and her great-grandparents, Peggy and Oscar Chunn, Irene Welborn, and Gloria Lowery.

We celebrate the birth of Landon Ranger Gibson, born to Krista and Brad Gibson on September 16.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED in this year's Build-A-Bag collection benefitting the Chattanooga Salvation Army. We estimate that we collected about 250 food bags which will be distributed over the next few weeks through their social services center. It was a joy to watch our community come together under unusual circumstances to perform this act of service.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICER NOMINATIONS! You may submit your ballot online at lmpc.org/nominations OR call the church office at 423-821-4528 to request a paper ballot. The deadline for nominations is this Wednesday, September 30. Questions? Email nominations@lmpc.org.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH PLANTING EFFORTS of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery by picking up a Church Plant Prayer Guide from the fellowship hall lobby, the sanctuary narthex, or the Small Conference Room (under the map). There are currently seven church plants, five prospective planting sites, and various revitalization efforts underway in our Presbytery. For more information on our church planting efforts, please contact Stephanie Young in the Missions Office.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND A TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY "SERVICE OF LAMENT" today at 5:00 p.m. at New City Fellowship in Glenwood. This will be a time of crying out to God for his help with issues of racial unrest and other social issues challenging our nation, and to encourage us to live in the reconciliation of the cross of Christ. Please join if you are able.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE? *The Marriage Course* is a video series that can help you do just that, and is open to members and friends of LMPC. The course will be held on seven Tuesday evenings beginning October 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Reception Room. Each couple sits at their own table and there is no sharing with others. Dessert will be provided. Interested? Just send an email to marriagecourse@lmpc.org.

SAVE THE DATE! On Wednesday, October 28, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall we will welcome Dr. Irwyn Ince for a discussion of his recent book, *The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity, and the Church at Its Best*. Dr. Ince serves as a pastor at Grace DC Presbyterian Church and director of the Grace DC Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission. Registration via Realm is required. Please join us!

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