



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 29, 2020 | **Sanctuary Service**

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
Johannes Brahms

Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Lighting the candle of hope

taken from Isaiah 40:1-5 and Psalm 33:20-22

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for.

A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

“And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

In him our hearts rejoice for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

As we wait in faith for God's time, we light the candle of hope.

Introit

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Girls Ensemble

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Latin antiphons, 12th cent., Latin hymn, 1710; Plainsong, 13th cent.

* Call to worship

based on Psalm 98 and Luke 1

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

All: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

Leader: Our souls glorify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: The mighty One has done great things for us—holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation!

* Hymn of praise

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free; from our
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high, ap - pear; come, thou
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end; by his
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king, born to

fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's
prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear! O'er the
life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend. Leav - ing
reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine

strength and con - so - lat - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry nat - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - las - ting wond - er, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*** Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

based on Romans 3:20-24

No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

"For Things that I Do Wrong, O Lord"

Girls Ensemble

For things that I do wrong, O Lord, for things I fail to do,
forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others; I put my trust in you.

You are with me in my times of need; you guide me through each day.
When I cannot see what's best for me, you are there to show the way.

For things that I do wrong, O Lord, for things I fail to do,
forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others; I put my trust in you.
Michael Bedford, 1990

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on John 3 and Colossians 1

Leader: 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.

All: We joyfully give thanks to the Father, for he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*** Hymn of assurance**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
(continue scrolling for words and music)

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

1.Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung, of
 2.I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind; with
 3.This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air, dis -
 4.O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man woe; O

Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et
 Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a -
 pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y
 Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we

bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 right she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 God; from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 pray, to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* 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 preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Gift of God's Fullness in Jesus"

Brian Salter, lead pastor

Because God gives himself in fullness to us at Christmas, we can:

1. rightly resist the emptiness of world-centered thinking and living. (v. 8)
2. richly receive God's fullness in Jesus Christ. (vv. 9-10; 1:15-20)

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King_ of__
2. Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide my heart to thee;_ here,_
3. So come, my Sov - 'reign, en - ter in! Let new and nob - ler__

glo - ry waits; the King of kings is draw - ing__
Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner pres - ence__
life be - gin! Thy Hol - y Spir - it, guide__ us__

near, the Sav - ior of__ the__ world is here.
feel; thy grace and love__ in__ me re - veal.
on, un - til the glo - rious__ crown be won.

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

Ministry report

* **Postlude**

“Sleepers, Wake!”

J. S. Bach

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Girls Ensemble
Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE at the end of each fellowship hall service next Sunday, December 6, and at the end of each sanctuary service on December 13, for the purpose of voting on the slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon. The meetings are being held on two separate Sundays in order to accommodate the communion schedule. In addition, a brief meeting of LMPC, Inc., will be held to elect a trustee at the end of each congregational meeting. **Please note: those worshipping at home who wish to participate in a meeting are welcome to gather in the fellowship hall lobby on December 6 or in the chapel on December 13 by either 9:50 a.m. or 11:50 a.m. to receive a ballot. All voting must be done in person.**

NEW SERMON SERIES: CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL

As we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, who better to help us consider the riches of his grace than the apostle Paul? In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul quoted the prophet Isaiah, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him," (Isa. 64:4) and then added, "but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit." (1 Cor. 2:10) The mystery and wonder of the Gospel completely captivated Paul, so much so that he considered everything else in this world to be "a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus" as his Lord. (Phil. 3:8)

Since we have spent months now journeying with Paul in the book of Acts, it seemed a particularly appropriate year to turn to his letters during Advent and Christmas. With Paul—and like Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men—we will marvel at the wondrous gift we have been given. A year ago, none of us could have imagined celebrating Christmas in the midst of a pandemic, but no matter what the future holds, we can rejoice because there is truly nothing that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:39)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

In the mid-19th century, German theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern was the first to weave evergreen boughs into a wagon wheel adorned with candles as a way for children to count the days until Christmas. Since that time, advent wreaths have grown in meaning and use as a devotional and liturgical tool for Christians to celebrate Advent. The advent wreaths we are using at LMPC are full of symbolic meaning: the circular shape reminds us of God's never-ending love; the evergreen branches point to God's promise of eternal life through his Son; the red holly berries signify Jesus' blood shed on the cross; and the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ himself remind us of the true Light of the World, whom the darkness can never overcome.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE CONTINUING TO ACCEPT PLEDGES TOWARD THE 2021 BUDGET.

We are currently at 39% of the budget pledged. You can find more details in our brochure, available in the fellowship hall lobby or sanctuary narthex, or at lmpc.org/budget-details-2021. This year, you can submit your giving plans in three different ways:

- under the “Giving” tab on your Realm profile
- online at lmpc.org/pledge-2021
- completing a giving plan card and placing it in an offering plate or submitting it to the church office

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL WEEK OF OUR HOLIDAY TOY COLLECTION for

Hope for the Inner City’s Christmas Store! Please leave your donations under the porte cochere between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. today, November 29, and between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday, November 30 through Wednesday, December 2. If you are unable to donate during these hours, please contact Stephanie Young to make alternate arrangements. Visit lmpc.org/christmas-store for gift suggestions.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HYMN SING will take place next Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Nursery will be provided at the 4:00 p.m. service only. Registration via Realm is required and will open tomorrow, November 30. A livestream at lmpc.org and on our Vimeo page will be offered at 4:00 p.m.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS to be placed in the sanctuary or fellowship hall in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit lmpc.org/christmas-flowers to submit and contribute online, or contact the church office at 423.821.4528. The last day to request is Wednesday, December 9.

OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT, “PRINCE OF PEACE,” will take place on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please arrive 15 minutes early for a prelude before each concert. Registration via Realm is required and will open on Monday, December 7. A livestream will be offered at 4:00 p.m., and nursery will be provided at 4:00 p.m. only.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 5:00 P.M. SERVICE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL WILL BE SUSPENDED for the month of December, and will resume on January 3, 2021.

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