

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 6, 2020 | Fellowship Hall Service

Order of Worship

Welcome and announcements

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

*** Call to worship**

based on Luke 1:68-75

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

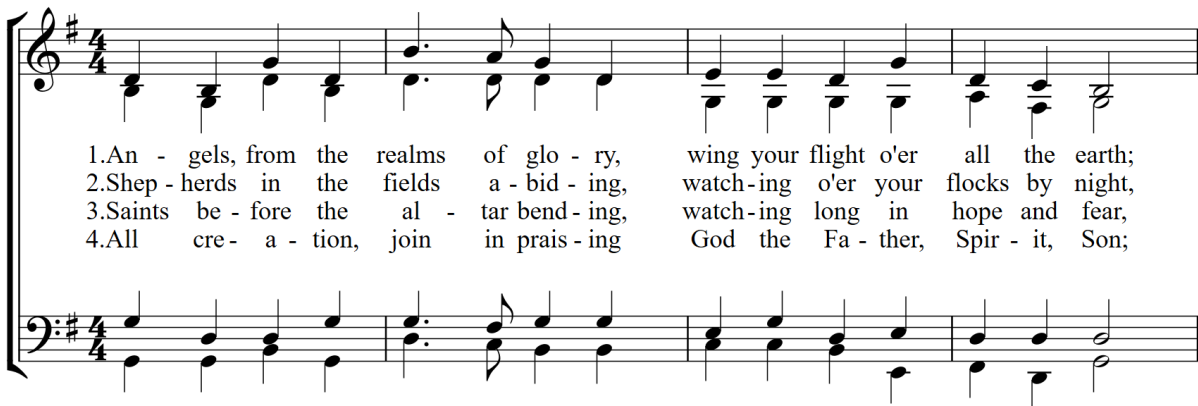
All: He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David as he said through his holy prophets of long ago.

Leader: He has shown mercy to our fathers and remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

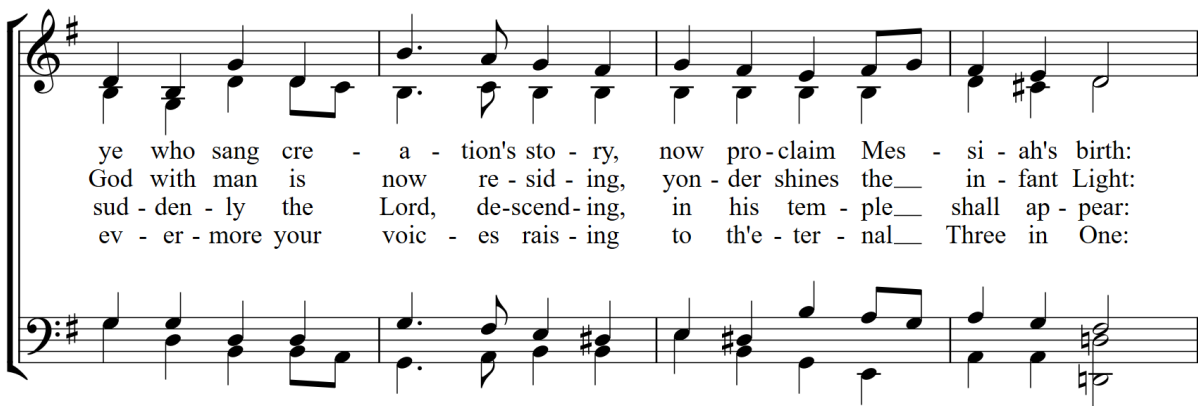
All: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people!

* Hymn of praise

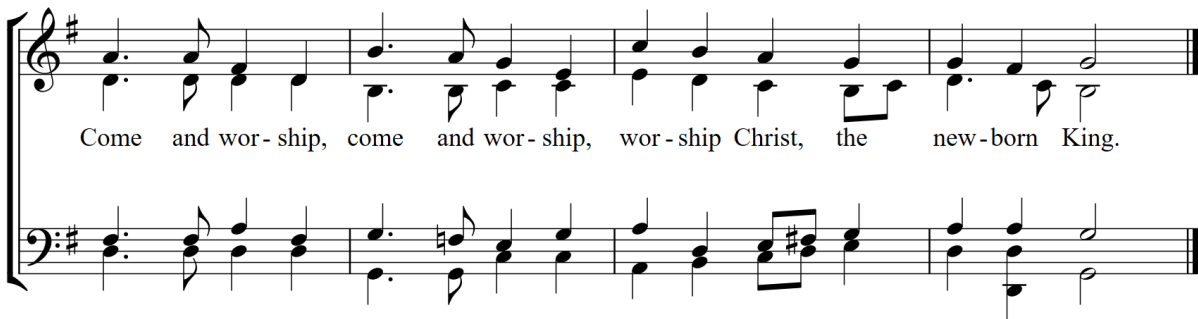
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Prayer of confession

based on Colossians 3

Leader: Heavenly Father, your Word says that as your chosen people, holy and dearly loved, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We are to bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances we may have against one another.

All: Lord, forgive us for our lack of compassion and humility. Forgive our impatience with each other and our refusal to bear with one another. Forgive us for ignoring your command to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Leader: Your Word says that we are to forgive as you have forgiven us, and that over all these virtues we are to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect unity.

All: Lord, forgive us for offering temporary, conditional forgiveness to those around us, which is fundamentally different from the eternal, unconditional forgiveness we have received in Christ.

Leader: Your Word says to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body we were called to peace, and to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

All: Lord, forgive us for allowing irritation and frustration to rule in our hearts rather than your peace. Forgive us for seeking to be abundantly filled by the things of this world, rather than seeking to have your Word richly dwell in our hearts. Teach us to do all things, whether in word or deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on Romans 5

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. For God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

* Hymn of assurance

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"
(continue scrolling for words and music)

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; — give ye heed to
2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; — now ye hear of
3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; — now ye need not

The first system of the musical score consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The music is in 6/8 time and G major. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day; earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and
end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - pened heav-en's door, and
fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

he is in the man-ger now. Christ is born to - day! — Christ is born to - day! —
man is bless-ed ev - er - more. Christ was born for this! — Christ was born for this! —
gain his ev - er - last-ing hall. Christ was born to save! — Christ was born to save! —

The third system of the musical score concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Lighting the candle of peace

Leader: In the days of the prophet Isaiah, the people looked forward to the coming birth of a Savior who Isaiah described as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there would be no end, and he would reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

All: For he himself is our peace. He came and preached peace to those who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we have access to the Father by one Spirit. Now may the Lord of peace himself give us peace at all times and in every way.

based on Is. 9:6-7; Eph. 2:14a, 17-18; 2 Thess. 3:16

Hymn of peace

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground, the
2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind, "glad
3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of Da - vid's line, the
4. "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played, all
5. "All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good



an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.
will hence - forth, from heav'n to men, be - gin and nev - er cease!"

text by Nahum Tate, 1700; music from T. Este's The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1592, arr. Tyler and Maggie Heath, 2013

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Gift of True Peace in Jesus"

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. True peace comes in a person. (vv. 13-15a)

2. True peace has a purpose. (vv. 15b-16, 18)

3. True peace must be our proclamation. (v. 17)

BIG IDEA: In the gift of Jesus Christ, God has secured our peace with himself and with one another.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, -
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see; -
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, -

join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in
hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, - pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, - our Em -
born that man no more may die, - born to raise the sons of earth, born to - give them

Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new - born King."
man - u - el.
sec - ond birth.

* **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.**

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

David Henry – guitar, vocalist

Hannah Lutz – viola

Jennifer Mixon – vocalist

Salley Kate Pierce – piano

Hannah Pulliam – flute

Chapman Whitted – guitar

John Wingard – vocalist

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTRATION FOR OUR CHRISTMAS HYMN SING TODAY IS CLOSED, but you can still watch the livestream at 4:00 p.m. It will be available beginning at 3:45 p.m. at lmpc.org and on our Vimeo page. You may also watch a recording on our website and Vimeo page after the livestream is over. Please note: those registered in the courtyard will need to bring their own seats and a flashlight.

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE at the end of each fellowship hall service today, December 6, and at the end of each sanctuary service next Sunday, 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 who wish to participate in a meeting after watching the recorded service at home are welcome to gather in the fellowship hall lobby today 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.**

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 this Wednesday, December 9.

OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT, "PRINCE OF PEACE," will take place next 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 tomorrow, December 7 at 8:30 a.m. Nursery will be provided at 4:00 p.m. only. A livestream at lmpc.org will be offered at 4:00 p.m., and a recording will be available after the livestream has ended.

IF YOUR FAMILY WOULD ENJOY CHRISTMAS CAROLING THIS YEAR, we are offering the opportunity to carol for one household per family on Sunday, December 20. Please register by next Sunday, December 13, via Realm if you would like to participate. Once you are registered, you will be assigned a home and a time for caroling. If you have any questions, please contact Judie Finch at judie@lmpc.org.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE on Thursday, December 24, in the sanctuary with overflow in the fellowship hall and chapel. In-person services will be held at 3:00, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m., with a livestream offered at lmpc.org at 5:00 p.m. A recording will also be available after the event. Since we anticipate welcoming newcomers at our Christmas Eve services, it is very unlikely that we will be able to accommodate members and regular attenders who have not registered. Registration for limited seating will open via Realm on **Monday, December 14, at 8:30 a.m.** for all three services and the age 0 to 3 nursery (available by registration only at 3:00 and 5:00).

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

2020 GIVING UPDATE THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

Annual Budget:.....\$5,071,750
2020 Giving YTD:.....4,014,562
Remaining Gifts Needed:.....1,057,188
Outstanding Pledge Balance:.....572,617
Unpledged Giving Needed:.....484,571

- With the Christmas season upon us, we ask that you keep up the momentum in giving and prayerfully consider how much you can give as the year closes. You can find various ways to give at lmpc.org/give.
- If you shop through Amazon Smile and choose LMPC as the charity of your choice, Amazon will give a small percentage of each purchase to LMPC. Visit smile.amazon.com to find out more.
- Please note that year-end gifts must either be received online or in the church office by Thursday, December 31, or have a USPS postmark no later than December 31, to be deductible in 2020.

2021 PLEDGING UPDATE

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, you can submit your giving plans for 2021 online at your Giving tab on Realm or at lmpc.org/pledge-2021. You can also place a giving plan card in the offering plate or deliver it to David Fowler in the church office. So far, 45% of the budget has been pledged. Find out more about pledging, ways to give, and the 2021 budget at lmpc.org/give.