



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 2020 | **Sanctuary Service**

# Order of Worship

---

## Prelude

Three Festive Carols  
*arr. Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard*

## Welcome and announcements

Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults

## Lighting the candle of joy

Leader: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

**All: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

*taken from Luke 2:8-11, Romans 15:13*

## Introit

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Ensemble

"Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over."

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
bidding all to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let all valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.

*text based on Isaiah 40:1-8 by Johannes Olearius, 1671; music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551, PSALM 42*

## \* Call to worship

taken from Psalm 98

Leader: 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; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**All: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music. Shout for joy before the LORD, the King!**

\* Hymn of praise

"Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King; \_\_\_ let ev - ery  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em - ploy; \_\_\_ while fields and  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; \_\_\_ he comes to  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove \_\_\_ the glo - ries

heart \_\_\_ pre - pare \_\_\_ him \_\_\_ room, \_\_\_ and heav'n and na - ture \_\_\_ sing, and \_\_\_  
 floods, \_\_\_ rocks, hills, \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ plains \_\_\_ re - peat the sound - ing \_\_\_ joy, re -  
 make \_\_\_ his bless - ings \_\_\_ flow \_\_\_ far as the curse is \_\_\_ found, far \_\_\_  
 of \_\_\_ his righ - teous - ness \_\_\_ and won - ders of his \_\_\_ love, and \_\_\_

and heav'n and na - ture

heav'n and na - ture \_\_\_ sing, and \_\_\_ heav'n, and heav'n \_\_\_ and na - ture \_\_\_ sing.  
 re - peat the sound - ing \_\_\_ joy, re - peat, \_\_\_ re - peat \_\_\_ the sound - ing \_\_\_ joy.  
 as the curse is \_\_\_ found, far \_\_\_ as, \_\_\_ far as \_\_\_ the curse is \_\_\_ found.  
 won - ders of his \_\_\_ love, and \_\_\_ won - ders, won - ders of his \_\_\_ love.

sing,

and heav'n and na - ture \_\_\_ sing,

## \* Prayer of adoration

### Call to confession

taken from Hebrews 4:14-16

Leader: Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

**All: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

### Silent prayers of confession

#### Choral prayer

“The Yearning”

Ensemble

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down  
by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.  
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide  
and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One,  
the Firstborn of creation.  
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited his own,  
and by his death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those  
who wait the day of his appearing.  
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased  
and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.  
*text by Susan Bentall Boersma, 2011; music by Craig Courtney, 2011*

#### Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

taken from Colossians 2

We have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. When we were dead in our sins and in the uncircumcision of our sinful nature, God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

\* Hymn of assurance

"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

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

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! \_\_\_



\* Hymn of response

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our  
 2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came; and un - to cer - tain  
 3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright; this day is born a  
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind, and left their flocks a -

Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to save us all from Sat - an's pow'r when  
 shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same: how that in Beth - le - hem was born the  
 Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright, to free all those who trust in him from  
 feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind: and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the

we were gone a - stray: O tid - ings of com - fort and  
 Son of God by name.  
 Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 Son of God to find.

joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

\* *Congregation standing as you are able*

---

**Musicians for this week:**

**Randall Crenshaw** – piano  
**Ensemble**

**Joy Gibbons** – director  
**Joshua Knight** – organ, piano

**2020 GIVING UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 6**

**Annual Budget:**.....\$5,071,750  
**2020 Giving YTD:**.....4,176,628  
**Remaining Gifts Needed:**.....895,122  
**Outstanding Pledge Balance:**.....427,672  
**Unpledged Giving Needed:**.....467,449

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 48% of the budget has been pledged. Find out more about pledging, ways to give, and the 2021 budget at [lmpc.org/give](http://lmpc.org/give).



## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE** at the end of each sanctuary service today, December 13, for the purpose of voting on the slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon. The congregational meetings in the fellowship hall took place on December 6. 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 chapel today by either 9:50 a.m. or 11:50 a.m. to receive a ballot. All voting must be done in person.**

**REGISTRATION FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 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](http://lmpc.org) and on our Vimeo and Facebook pages. You may also watch a recording on our website and Vimeo and Facebook pages after the livestream is over.

**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 today** 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](mailto: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](http://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 **tomorrow 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).

**THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS IS SCHEDULED** to be held January 22-24 and January 31, 2021. This class is for those interested in joining LMPC or learning more about what we believe. If you are interested in signing up for the class, please confirm by emailing [julie@lmpc.org](mailto:julie@lmpc.org) or calling 423-424-5973 by Friday, January 8. For more information visit [lmpc.org/intro-to-lmpc](http://lmpc.org/intro-to-lmpc).

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TOWARD OUR 2020 TOY COLLECTION** for Hope for the Inner City's Christmas Store. We had a truly overwhelming response, and we are thrilled to report that we collected over 30 bicycles, as well as many other items for the store.

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/news](http://lmpc.org/news)*