

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 20, 2020 | Fellowship Hall Service

# Order of Worship

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**Welcome and announcements**

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministry

**\* Call to worship**

taken from Isaiah 60 and Luke 2

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!**

\* Hymn of praise

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
2. God of God, Light of Light; lo, he ab - hors not the  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of

Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O  
Vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;  
heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the high - est;

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

\* **Prayer of adoration**

\* **Advent affirmation**

Leader: Christians, what do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

**All: We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Savior: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. He is fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary, sent by God to reconcile the world to himself. To him be all glory and honor for ever and ever.**

**Call to confession**

based on Titus 2

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, a people eager to do what is good.

**Silent prayers of confession**

**Assurance of God’s pardoning grace**

based on Ephesians 2:4-7 and 1 John 3:1a

Leader: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace we have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**All: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!**

\* Hymn of assurance

"The First Noel"



1.The\_ first\_ No - el, the\_ an-gel did say, was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they  
2.Then\_ let\_ us\_ all, with one\_ ac - cord, sing\_ prais - es to\_ our heav'n - ly



lay; in\_ fields\_ where they lay\_ keep-ing their sheep on a cold win-ter's night\_ that was\_ so  
Lord that hath\_ made heav'n and earth\_ of naught, and\_ with\_ his blood\_ man - kind\_ hath



deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.  
bought.

*traditional English carol, 17th century*

**Lighting the candle of love**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

*based on John 1:14 and 1 John 4:9-12*

**Hymn of love**

"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"

*(continue scrolling for words and music)*

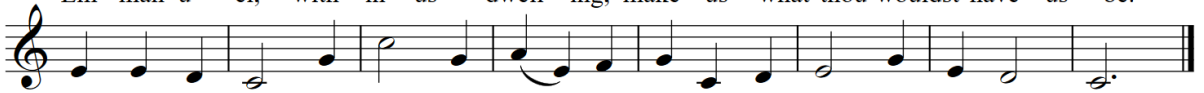
“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”



1.Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;  
2.Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man;  
3.Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der, sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor.  
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing, heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan.  
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing, make us what thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.  
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.  
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

*text by Frank Houghton, 1894-1972; French carol melody, arr. Charles H. Kitson, 1930*

\* **Scripture reading from Galatians 4:1-7**

Pete Vaughn

<sup>1</sup>What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup>He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word**

## **Sermon**

### **“The Blessing of Christmas: Our Wondrous Adoption”**

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. The wonder of Christ’s Incarnation (v. 4)
  - The timing: “when the time had fully come”
  
  - The origin: “*God sent his Son*”
  
  - The manner: “*born of a woman*”
  
  - The condition: “*born under the law*”
  
2. The fundamental reason for Christ’s Incarnation: to redeem those under the law (v. 5a)
  
3. The glorious reality springing from Christ’s Incarnation: our adoption as full heirs (vv. 5b-7)

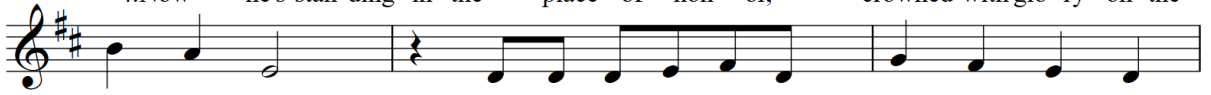
## **Pastoral prayer**

\* Hymn of response

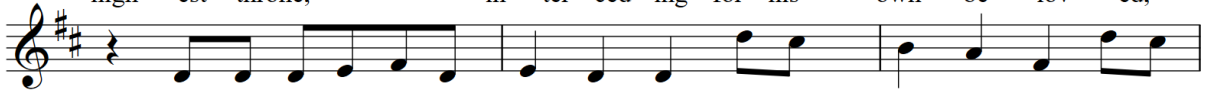
“From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable”



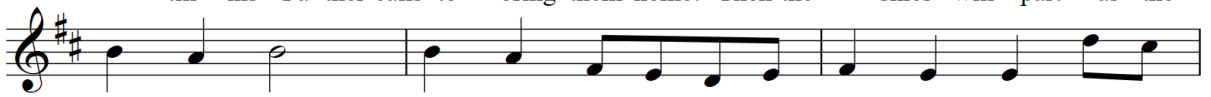
1.From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a  
 2.King of heaven now the friend of sinners, hum - ble servant in the  
 3.Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, he was lifted on a  
 4.Now he's standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the



vir - gin's faith, to the anguish and the shame of scandal,  
 Fa - ther's hands, filled with power and the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 cru - el cross; he was punished for a world's trans - gres - sions,  
 high - est throne, in - ter - ced - ing for his own be - lov - ed,



came the Sav - ior of the hu - man race! But the skies were filled with the  
 filled with mer - cy for the bro - ken man. Yes, he walked my road and he  
 he was suf - fer - ing to save the lost. He\_\_\_ fights for breath, he\_\_\_  
 till his Fa - ther calls to bring them home! Then the skies will part as the



praise of heav'n, shep - herds lis - ten as the an - gels tell of the  
 felt my pain, joys and sor - rows that I know so well; yet his  
 fights for me, loos - ing sin - ners from the claims of hell; and\_\_\_  
 trum - pet sounds, hope of heav - en or the fear of hell; but the



gift of God come down to man, at the dawn - ing of Im - man - u - el!  
 righ - teous steps give me hope a - gain; I will fol - low my Im - man - u - el!  
 with a shout our\_\_\_ souls are free, death de - feat - ed by Im - man - u - el!  
 bride will run to her Lo - ver's arms, giv - ing glo - ry to Im - man - u - el!

*text and music by Stuart Townend © 1999 Thankyou Music. ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036*

\* 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*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Genna Christie** – vocalist  
**David Henry** – guitar, vocalist  
**Maddie Lee** – piano

**Hannah Lutz** – viola  
**Rebekah Risley** – vocalist  
**Fred Verwoerd** – vocalist

**RESULTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS ON 12/6/20 & 12/13/20**

We are glad to report that, after counting the ballots, we did have a quorum and the full slate of officer nominees was approved. On the same ballot, Lee Ballenger was elected as a new director to serve a four-year term on the board of LMPC, Inc. Listed below are the members who were approved to begin officer training for the class of 2024.

**ELDER NOMINEES**

Glenn Breazeale  
Bill Davis  
Pete Frederick  
Allen Jackson  
Will Jackson  
Chip Kelley  
Don Kent  
Jason Lehn  
John Plating  
Miller Welborn

**DEACON NOMINEES**

Robby Bosshardt  
Ryan Cleary  
Mallory Dean  
Alan Doak  
Johnny Garth  
Tom Ireland  
Lee Perry  
Tim Sorrell  
Ron Thomas  
Rob Witcher

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** We want to remind our members and our regular attenders that registration is required for all of the Christmas Eve services as well as the nursery being offered at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. We're hoping to be able to accommodate first-time visitors and people in our community who are unaware of registration, so members who have not registered should plan to watch the livestream at home. You can find information on how to register and also how to watch the livestream at [lmpc.org/christmas-2020](http://lmpc.org/christmas-2020).

In order for us to move a large number of people safely in and out of our church on Christmas Eve, it is very important that everyone abide by the following guidelines:

- Once you have registered, please make note of both the time and the location (sanctuary, chapel, or fellowship hall). **Come at the right time, and come to the right place.**
- Please arrive NO MORE than 30 minutes prior to each service. Our goal is to have everybody from one service exit as quickly as possible at the end of the service before the group coming to the next service arrives. **Smooth exiting + smooth entering = safe social distancing.**
- Please do not send one person to save seats for your whole group/family. **Arrive together—be seated together.** It will not be possible to reserve an entire pew or row.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Like you, we hope that all of these guidelines will be a distant memory next Christmas.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CORRESPONDING WITH A SUPPORTED MISSIONARY** during the holiday season? If so, please contact Stephanie Young in the Missions Office to be paired with a supported missionary or national partner. Prayer and communication are key parts of being a supporting church. Stephanie can be reached at [stephanie@lmpc.org](mailto:stephanie@lmpc.org).

**A NEW MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE DEALING WITH A CANCER DIAGNOSIS** is being formed and will soon start meeting via Zoom. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Chad Middlebrooks or another pastor for more information.

**THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS IS SCHEDULED** to be held January 22 through January 24 and January 31, 2021. This class is for those interested in joining LMPC or learning more about what we believe. You can register for the class 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).

## 2020 GIVING UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 13

**Annual Budget:**.....\$5,071,750  
**2020 Giving YTD:**.....4,284,726  
**Remaining Gifts Needed:**.....787,024  
**Outstanding Pledge Balance:**.....330,115  
**Unpledged Giving Needed:**.....456,909

- Thank you for your faithful giving in 2020. With the Christmas season upon us, we ask that you continue to keep the remaining 2020 LMPC financial needs in your prayers. You can find various ways to give at [lmpc.org/give](http://lmpc.org/give).
- 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, 50% of the budget has been pledged with a little over 200 families submitting a giving plan. The Stewardship Committee has asked all LMPC families to consider submitting a giving plan for 2021 by December 31. Find out more about pledging, ways to give, and the 2021 budget at [lmpc.org/give](http://lmpc.org/give).

**THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

- Belva Bailey** by Don Bailey, Sr., Laura and Don Bailey, Jr., and Lori and Kevin Chilton
- Peggy C. Ballenger** by Lee and Ross Ballenger
- Dick Bodine** by Hilda and Marshall Jemison
- Kaky, Hugh, and Michael Brown** by Zane and Greg Brown
- Joseph Cadario** by Janice and Wes Moore
- Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins III** by their children, Wilford Caulkins IV, Betsy Caulkins Bookout, and Caroline Caulkins Bentley
- Atticus Bartholomew Centurion Doe** by the Doe Family
- Jewel and R.D. Clark** by Kim and Larry Kaye
- Ernestelle Parker Durrett** by Lisa and Joe Hailey
- Dick Fowler** by Mems and Sam Bicking
- Lynda Fray** by Margaret and Jeff Compton and the Wykoff family
- Bill Frazier** by Jan and Steve Sherbak
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gandy** by Alice and Dick O'Ferrall
- Jennie Moore Gregory** by Janice and Wes Moore
- Julia Sellers Hailey** by Lisa and Joe Hailey
- Merilyn and Ross Hall** by Stephanie and David Wharton
- Evelyn and C.H. Halvorson** by Marni and Steve Halvorson
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Harris, Jr.** by Lee and Ross Ballenger
- Charles H. Harris III** by Lee and Ross Ballenger
- Frank Jemison** by Hilda and Marshall Jemison
- Jill Jenkins** by Jan and Keith Michaels
- Marianne and Howard Jenkins** by Jan and Keith Michaels
- Glenna and Roy Kaye** by Kim and Larry Kaye
- Marilyn Compton Keck** by the Jeffery Compton family
- Bunny and Ted King** by Hilda and Marshall Jemison
- Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Mathews** by Lee and Ross Ballenger
- Megan Grace Matthews** by Janice and Wes Moore
- Harriet and Glenn Michaels** by Jan and Keith Michaels
- The Very Rev. Norman and Tillie Ann Milbank** by Marni and Steve Halvorson
- Michael Mooney** by his family

Westley A. Moore, Sr. by Janice and Wes Moore  
Hal Morris by Linda Morris and family  
Dr. and Mrs. Carter O'Ferrall by Alice and Dick O'Ferrall  
Scotty Probasco by Zane and Greg Brown  
Carol Robinson by Janice and Wes Moore  
George Robinson by Janice and Wes Moore  
Dr. William Roy by the Moldenhauers  
Doug Sizemore by Evelyn Sizemore  
Judith Stegall by her daughters, Kristen Brock and Kelley Mitchell  
Bertha Stephenson by Janice and Wes Moore  
Frank Stephenson by Janice and Wes Moore  
Dan Teague by the Teague and Robbins families  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thatcher, Jr. by Elizabeth and Carter Thatcher

**THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

Nell and Bob Boone by Jennifer, Tom, Thomas, and Caroline West  
Sarah Fowler by the Smisson family  
Lori and Matt Hammond by Anne and Trey Carr  
Robin and Bret Moldenhauer by Anne and Trey Carr  
Anne and Peter Platt by Anne and Trey Carr  
Carla Roy by the Moldenhauers  
The Zach Walley Family by Betsy Caldwell  
Wednesday evening prayer group & those faithful in prayer by Marni & Steve Halvorson  
Lindsey and Robert Whittaker by Anne and Trey Carr