

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 27, 2020 | **Sanctuary Service**

# Order of Worship

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## Prelude

*“Unto Us Is Born a Son”  
Michael Praetorius, arr. Aaron Miller*

Omega and Alpha He!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
rends the air asunder.

## Welcome and announcements

Brian Salter, lead pastor

## \* Call to worship

based on Psalm 103

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

**All: He forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases, he redeems our lives from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion. He satisfies our desires with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Leader: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel. The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.

**All: The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

\* Hymn of praise

"O Sing of Christ"

1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known the kind-ness of the Lord, E -  
 2. What A - dam lost none could re - claim, and par - a - dise was barred un -  
 3. He came to that which was his own, but he was not re - ceived; yet as  
 4. Lord Je - sus Christ, you deign-ed to dwell a - mong us here on earth as

ter - nal Word made flesh and bone so we could be re - stored. U -  
 til the se - cond A - dam came to mend what sin had marred. For  
 still through him God's glo - ry shone, and some his name be - lieved. To  
 God with us, Em - man - u - el, to bring his ho - ly birth. Though

pon our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace the  
 when the time was full and right, God sent his on - ly Son; he  
 these he gave the right to be the heirs of heav'n a - bove, born  
 rich, you wil - ling - ly be - came one with our po - ver - ty, that

full - ness of his de - i - ty, the i - con of his grace.  
 came to us as life and light and our re - demp - tion won.  
 not of hu - man an - cest - ry but born of God in love.  
 we might share your wealth and name for all e - ter - ni - ty.

text by Stephen P. Starke, 1996; music is traditional English melody, FOREST GREEN

\* Prayer of adoration

## Affirmation of faith

based on Philippians 2:5-11

Leader: What do the scriptures teach us about Jesus Christ?

**All: That he, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

## Call to confession

Isaiah 64:6 and Proverbs 28:13

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

## Silent prayers of confession

### Choral prayer

“The Work of Christmas”

Ensemble

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins.

*text by Howard Thurman, 1973; music by Dan Forrest, 2014*

## Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on 2 Corinthians 5 and Zephaniah 3

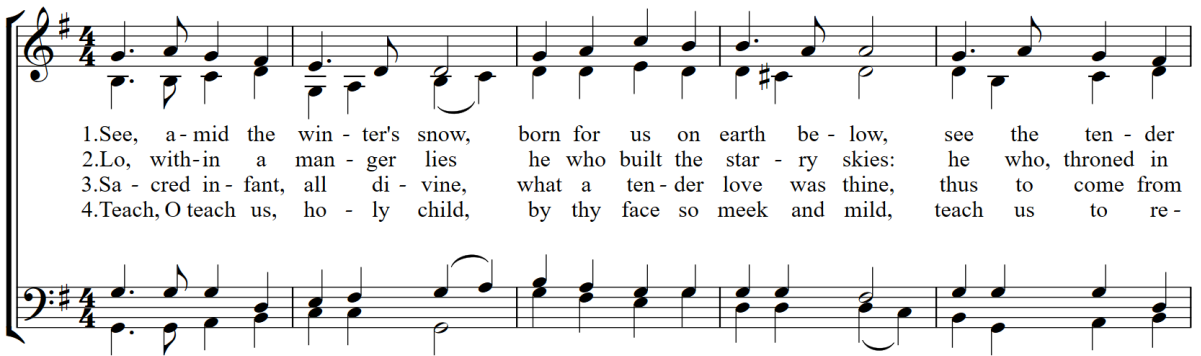
**Leader:** If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**All:** **Therefore, be glad and rejoice! For the LORD has taken away our punishment. The LORD our God is with us, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in us, he will quiet us with his love, he will rejoice over us with singing.**

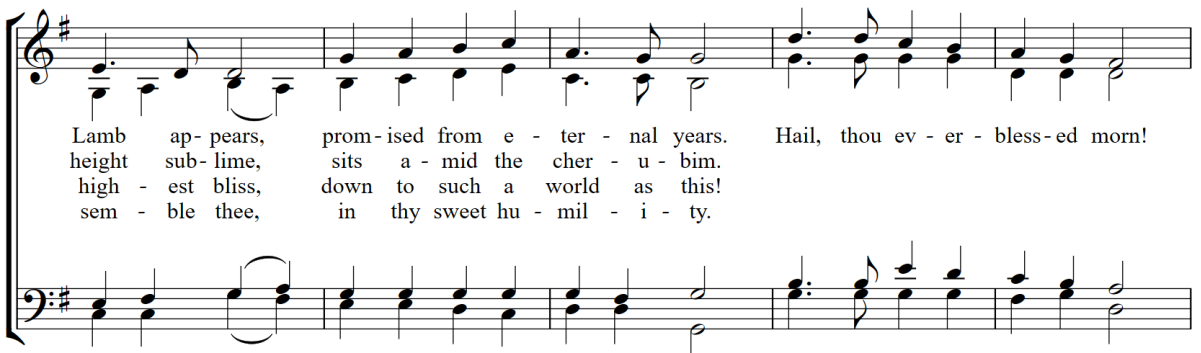
\* Hymn of assurance

*"See, amid the Winter's Snow"  
(continue scrolling for words and music)*

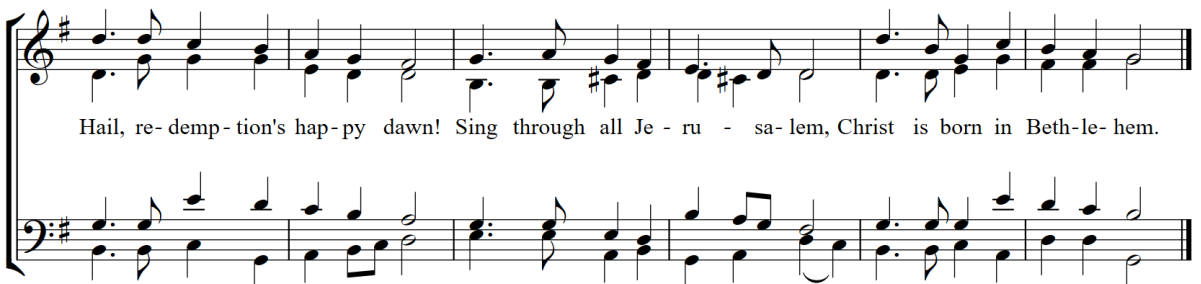
"See, amid the Winter's Snow"



1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low, see the ten - der  
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies: he who, throned in  
3. Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine, thus to come from  
4. Teach, O teach us, ho - ly child, by thy face so meek and mild, teach us to re -



Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years. Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn!  
height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
high - est bliss, down to such a world as this!  
sem - ble thee, in thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn! Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

text by Edward Caswall, 1851; music by John Goss, 1870, SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

**\* Scripture reading from Romans 3:19-24**

Brian Salter

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

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 Perfect Righteousness in Jesus"*  
Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults

On Christmas our Savior made himself known because:

1. righteousness can never be achieved by our obeying the law. (vv. 19-20)
2. righteousness from God was made known exactly as promised. (v. 21)
3. righteousness can only be received as a free gift of God. (vv. 22-24)

**Pastoral prayer**

\* Hymn of response

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest in the Sav - ior's blood?  
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex - plore his strange de - sign?  
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nite his grace!),  
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and na - ture's night;  
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and all in him, is mine!

Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing  
 In vain the first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy  
 hum - bled him - self (so great his love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy  
 thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell  
 A - live in him, my liv - ing Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap -

love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me? A -  
 all! Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds in - quire no more.  
 all, im - mense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.  
 off, my heart was free; I rose, and went forth, and fol - lowed thee.  
 proach th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
 A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my God,



\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

\* **Postlude**

Fugue in B Major  
*Camille Saint-Saëns*

\* *Congregation standing as you are able*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Ensemble**  
Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ  
Kristin Wykoff – soloist

**2020 GIVING UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 20**

**Annual Budget:**.....\$5,071,750  
**2020 Giving YTD:**.....4,478,064  
**Remaining Gifts Needed:**.....593,686  
**Outstanding Pledge Balance:**.....496,260  
**Unpledged Giving Needed:**.....97,426

- Thank you for your faithful giving in 2020. With the end of 2020 nearing, we ask that you continue to keep the remaining 2020 LMPC financial needs in prayer. You can find various ways to give at [lmpc.org/give](https://lmpc.org/give).
- Please note that year-end gifts must either be received online or in the church office by **this 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](https://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, 55% of the budget has been pledged. The Stewardship Committee has asked all LMPC families to consider submitting a giving plan for 2021 **by this Thursday, December 31**. Find out more about pledging, ways to give, and the 2021 budget at [lmpc.org/give](https://lmpc.org/give).

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE** at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary this Thursday, December 31. Please register via Realm to reserve your seat. All are welcome!

**LOOKING AHEAD:** At the beginning of January we will continue our regular Sunday schedule, with sanctuary and fellowship hall services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and live streaming at 9:00 a.m. We hope to return to having a 5:00 p.m. fellowship hall service and also offer additional activities later in the month.

**WOMEN OF LMPC: JOIN US THIS WINTER** as we continue our study in the Psalms. "Semester in the Psalms" large group meetings begin on Thursday, January 7 and small group meetings begin on Wednesday, January 13. We will have opportunities to participate both in person and virtually. New registration for small groups will open in January. Registration for each Large Group will open one week in advance, and recordings will be available at [lmpc.org/women](http://lmpc.org/women) after each event is over. If you have any questions, please email [women@lmpc.org](mailto:women@lmpc.org).

**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).

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