



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 3, 2021 | Fellowship Hall Service

Order of Worship

Welcome and announcements

Joe Donnovin, ruling elder

* Call to worship

based on Ephesians 1:3-14

Leader: All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

All: You chose us in him before the creation of the world to be your people, holy and blameless in your sight. In love you predestined us to be adopted as your sons through Jesus Christ. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of your grace that you lavished on us.

Leader: You have made known to us the mystery of your will, to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

All: All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

* Hymn of praise

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”



1.O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise, the
2.My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to
3.Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis
4.He speaks and, list - 'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive; the



glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

text by Charles Wesley, 1739; music by Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

Psalms 32:1-6a

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found.

Hymn of confession

"Depth of Mercy"

1. Depth of mer - cy! Can there be mer - cy reach - ing e - ven me?
2. Give me grace, Lord, let me own all the wrongs that I have done.

God, the Just, his wrath for - bears; me, the chief of sin - ners, spares. So
Let me now my sins de - plore, look to you and sin no more.

man - y times my heart has strayed from his kind and per - fect ways,
There, for me, the Sav - ior stands hold - ing forth his wound - ed hands,

mak - ing clear my des - p'rate need for his blood poured out for me.
scars which ev - er cry for me; once con - demned but now set free.

text by Charles Wesley, 1740; music by Bob Kauflin, 1997

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on Romans 4:25 and 5:1-2

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, 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. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

* Hymn of assurance

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"



1. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, whose price - less blood has ran - som
2. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, my life he bought, my love he
3. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who car - ries me on ea - gle



me. Mine was the sin that drove the bit - ter nails, and hung him on that judg - me
owns. I have no long - ings for an - oth - er, I'm sat - is - fied in him a
wings. He crowns my life with lov - ing - kind - ness, his tri - umph song I'll ev - er



tree. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who crushed the power of sin and
lone. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er; his faith - ful - ness my stand - ing
sing. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who waits for me at gates of



death. My on - ly Sav - ior be - fore the Ho - ly Judge: The
place. Though foes are might - y and rush up - on me, my
gold, and when he calls me it will be par - a - dise, his



Lamb who is my right - eous - ness; the Lamb who is my right - eous - ness.
feet are firm, held by his grace; my feet are firm, held by his grace.
face for - ev - er to be - hold; his face for - ev - er to be - hold.

Hymn of preparation

"Speak, O Lord"



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food of your
2. Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



Ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and
mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
plans for us, truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will



fash - ion us in your like - ness, that the light of Christ might be
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of _ faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
prom - is - es, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, 'til your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
ne - ver fail let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

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* Scripture reading from Acts 21:27–22:21

Mack Erickson

²⁷When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸shouting, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place."

²⁹(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.) ³⁰The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. ³¹While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

³²He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. ³⁵When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers. ³⁶The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Away with him!" ³⁷As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?" "Do you speak Greek?" he replied. ³⁸"Aren't you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the desert some time ago?"

³⁹Paul answered, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people." ⁴⁰Having received the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

¹"Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense." ²When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said: ³"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. ⁴I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' ⁸'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁹My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. ¹⁰'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' ¹¹My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. ¹²A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul,

receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him. ¹⁴Then he said: ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’ ¹⁷When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw the Lord speaking. ‘Quick!’ he said to me. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these men know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ ²¹ Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ “

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon “The Power of Jesus in Paul’s Remarkable Response”
Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. A false accusation and an unprovoked attack (21:27-31)

2. A surprising rescue and a revealing request (21:32-40)

3. A personal story of the ultimate rescue (22:1-21)
 - Paul’s life as a Jew (vv.1-5)

 - Paul’s encounter with Christ (vv. 6-16)

 - Paul’s commission by Christ (vv. 17-21)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ris - en King, who de - light to bring him
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing through the
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the



praise. Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of
night. Come, those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the
faith. Come, those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his



grace. From the shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where
fight. For his per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but
grace. O - ver all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther child - ren in. Re - joice! Re -
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all."



joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joice! One heart, one voice; O, Church of Christ, re - joice!

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* 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:

William Darby – vocalist

David Henry – guitar, vocalist

Dave Hess – piano

Hannah Lutz – viola

Sam Miller – violin

Amy Verwoerd – vocalist

Fred Verwoerd – vocalist

IN MEMORIAM

Benjamin Daniel Harnsberger

August 21, 1943 – December 25, 2020

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU HAVE NOT 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, 56% of the budget has been pledged with 231 families submitting a giving plan. Find out more about pledging and the 2021 budget at lmpc.org/give.

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 after each event is over. If you have any questions, please email 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 or calling 423-424-5973 by Friday, January 8. For more information visit lmpc.org/intro-to-lmpc.

THE STUDY RESOURCE “FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN” will resume publication next Friday, January 8. This resource provides a way for small groups and individuals to pursue further study of each sermon passage. There is also a “family dinner table” section that is designed to help families and households have a meal-time conversation around a few questions or issues raised by the passage being studied each week.

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

