

# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**WELCOME TO LMPC!** We're so glad you are with us today. Please use the tear-off card in the back of your bulletin to share important information with us. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God.

### A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- We do not have a nursery available in the morning services at this time.
- Coloring sheets and crayons are available for children. Please take crayons home with you.
- Tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at the exits.
- At the end of the service, please wait for the ushers to indicate when and where you are to exit.

## **Order of Worship**

Welcome and announcements

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

\* Call to worship

based on Daniel 2 and Jeremiah 32

Leader: Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power

are his.

All: He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Leader: He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness,

and light dwells with him.

All: We thank and praise you, O God of our fathers. You show love to

thousands—O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds.

\* Hymn of praise

"Across the Lands"

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began. Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand. All creation holds together by the power of your voice. Let the skies declare your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

*Refrain*: You're the Author of creation;

you're the Lord of ev'ry man;

and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost, and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the hungry; with a word you calmed the sea; yet how silently you suffered, that the guilty may go free! *Refrain* 

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave, and ascended into heaven, leading captives in your way.

Now you stand before the Father, interceding for your own; from each tribe and tongue and nation, you are leading sinners home! *Refrain text and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend* © 2002 Thankyou Music, LLC, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

## \* Prayer of adoration and the Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## \* Scripture reading from Acts 22:22-29

text printed in the bulletin

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Deborah Thomas (9:00) Molly Ballenger (11:00)

## Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"God's Wisdom in a Volatile World" Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Pastoral prayer

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.

## Hymn of confession

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die. text by Augustus Toplady, 1776; music by James Ward, 1984

## Silent prayers of confession

### Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on 1 Peter 2 and Galatians 2

Leader: Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were like sheep going astray, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

All: We have been crucified with Christ and we no longer live, but Christ lives in us. The life that we live in the body, we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us.

### Words of institution

#### Communion affirmation

Leader: Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, this Holy Supper we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.

All: We come in remembrance that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent by the Father into the world to take on flesh. By his righteous life, atoning death, and powerful resurrection, he has accomplished for us what we could not accomplish for ourselves.

Leader: We come to have communion with our Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. He is the bread of heaven that nourishes our souls and the true vine in which we abide and bear fruit.

All: We come in hope, believing that these signs are a pledge and foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb that we will enjoy when Christ's kingdom has fully come. We proclaim the Lord's death and profess his resurrection until he comes again. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

#### "Let Me Find Thee"

Behold me here, in grief draw near, pleading at thy throne, O King. To thee each tear, each trembling fear, Jesus, Son of Man, I bring. Let me find thee, let me find thee.

Let me find thee, Lord of mercy, King of grace.

Look down in love, and from above, with thy Spirit satisfy.

Thou hast sought me, thou hast bought me, and thy purchase, Lord, am I.

Let me find thee, let me find thee.

Let me find thee, here on earth and then on high.

Hear the broken, scarcely spoken, longings of my heart to thee.

All the crying, all the sighing of thy child accepted be.

Let me find thee, let me find thee.

Let me find thee, wounded healer, suff'ring Lord. text by Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; music by Matthew Smith, 2012



text by Paul Gerhardt, 1656, translated by John Wesley; music by Jon Caudill, 2002

## \* Prayer of thanksgiving



text and music by Aaron Boswell, Matt Boswell, and Matt Papa © 2010 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, LLC, 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

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Abi Davis – clarinet Calvin Garriott – piano David Henry – guitar, vocalist Ellie Henry – vocalist Hannah Lutz – viola Hannah Pulliam – vocalist

**The rosebud in the fellowship hall today** is for the birth of Ruth Debora Joy Riley, born to Kara and Scott Riley on December 31.

**Celebrating the baptism** of Emmaline Hardy Palmer at the 9:00 service in the sanctuary today are her parents, Cara and Benjamin Palmer, her grandparents, Patti and Mark Palmer, and Becky and Steve Childers, and her great-grandparents, Bill and Marilyn Heath, and Albert Steenwyk.

#### Acts 22:22-29

<sup>22</sup>The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!" <sup>23</sup>As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, <sup>24</sup>the commander ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and questioned in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.

<sup>25</sup>As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" <sup>26</sup>When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen." <sup>27</sup>The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered. <sup>28</sup>Then the commander said, "I had to pay a big price for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied. <sup>29</sup>Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

## **SERMON NOTES**

## "God's Wisdom in a Volatile World" Acts 22:22-29

### The volatile scene

THE	ofattie Scene
1.	A mob's angry response to the good news being extended to the Gentiles (vv. 22-24)
2.	A disciple's humble and wise pursuit of just treatment in order that he may advance the Gospel (vv. 25-29)
The v	rital lesson
3.	As we seek to carry out God's mission, we need utter dependence upon him and divine wisdom from him in order to discern when to faithfully endure suffering or rightly challenge that which is wrong.
	God's wisdom practically applied:
	• Paul delays his appeal for justice until after being flogged. (Acts 16:23,37)
	• Paul determines to face even death in Jerusalem to serve Jesus. (Acts 21:13)
	<ul> <li>Paul defines the God-given role of government to reward good and punish wrong. (Romans 13:4-5)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Paul directs us to live faithfully before God by doing good for his glory always. (Col. 3:17)</li> </ul>
	• Paul defends enduring being wronged if it means we avoid doing wrong. (1 Cor. 6:7)

#### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE WAIT FOR THE USHERS** to excuse you row by row after the service.

**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, 60% of the budget has been pledged with 266 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. Small group meetings begin this week. If you are not already part of a small group and would like to join one, please email women@lmpc.org. You can find the full semester's schedule for both large and small group meetings at lmpc.org/women.

THE STUDY RESOURCE "FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN" resumes this week at lmpc.org/sermons. 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.

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.

**OUR WINTER 2021 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** will be held during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday School hour from January 17 through March 7. The class will be conducted over Zoom and will be taught by Bill Davis on the topic of "Kingdom Calling and the Secular World." If you would like to attend this online class, please register via Realm or at lmpc.org/sunday-school. You will receive a Zoom invitation with instructions prior to each Sunday's class so that you can log on and participate in the class. More information and a schedule can be found on the website.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS** for the Lord's financial provision in 2020! Our preliminary numbers show that 2020 giving was \$4.95 million. While this was under budget, it more than meets the financial needs of the church due to spending that was significantly less than budgeted.

**ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, WE SENT AN EMAIL** to all adult members which included the findings from the GRACE investigation as well as our response to GRACE's recommendations in light of their report. We ask that you please be in prayer as we begin to implement these recommendations. We will be sending more information soon about a town hall meeting to answer any questions you may have.

## MEMBERS & VISITORS - PLEASE REACH OUT TO US!

NAME

<ul> <li>IWOULD LIKE TO:</li> <li>☐ Speak to a pastor</li> <li>☐ Speak to someone in the church office</li> <li>☐ Receive email from LMPC</li> </ul>
EMAIL
PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT:  ☐ Serving at LMPC ☐ Becoming a member at LMPC ☐ Joining a small group ☐ Joining a Bible study ☐ men's ☐ women's ☐ Prayer opportunities
If you are a first-time or repeat visitor, please fill out your information on the other side of this card so we can follow up with you.
PRAYER REQUESTS & COMMENTS
Include request in the Prayer List?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ I would like to speak with someone about the prayer request or other concern. Please contact me at:
PHONE DAY EVENING Please deposit this card in the offering plate.

## WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Feel free to fill out your information on this tear-off card and place it in the offering plate. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!

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Sunday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Worship service sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Worship service with communion fellowship hall
11:00 a.m. Worship service sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Worship service with communion fellowship hall

For more events this week, visit lmpc.org/calendar.

#### I AM A:

- ☐ First time visitor
- ☐ Repeat visitor

NAME

SPOUSE (IF ATTENDING TODAY)

CHILDREN (IF ATTENDING TODAY)

ADDRESS

**HOME PHONE** 

CELL

EMAIL\*

SPOUSE CELL

SPOUSE EMAIL\*

\*By supplying your email address(es), you consent to receive email from LMPC.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH REALM AND THE CONNECT APP:

- Communicate with your groups and teams
- Register easily for popular events
- Gain access to our online church directory
- Update your personal information, including photo
- Check your progress on giving and pledging

You can find more details about how to join and use Realm at lmpc.org/realm. For additional help with Realm, please email Caitlyn Whitted at caitlyn@lmpc.org.

### **OUR MISSION**

Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.

#### **CONTACT US**

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue

Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

Web: lmpc.org Email: info@lmpc.org Phone: 423 821 4528

Worship services with Communion are held on the first and second Sundays of every month, one Sunday in the sanctuary and one Sunday in the fellowship hall. Please see the church website for more details.