

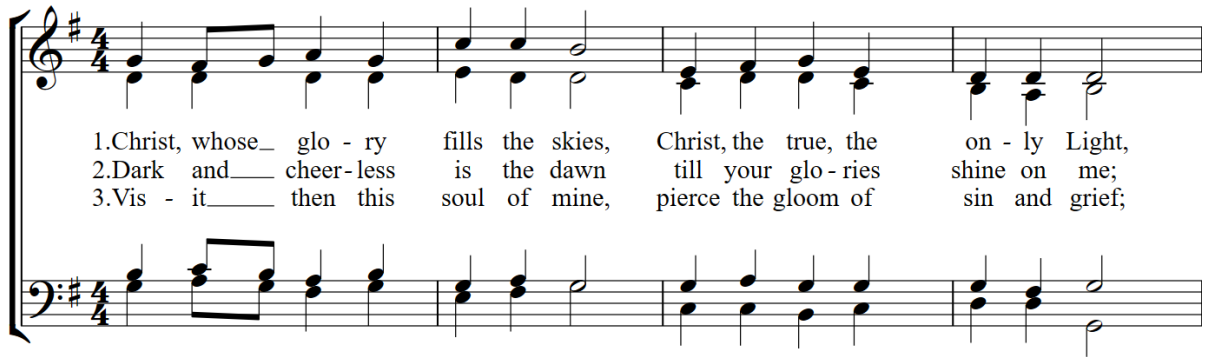


LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

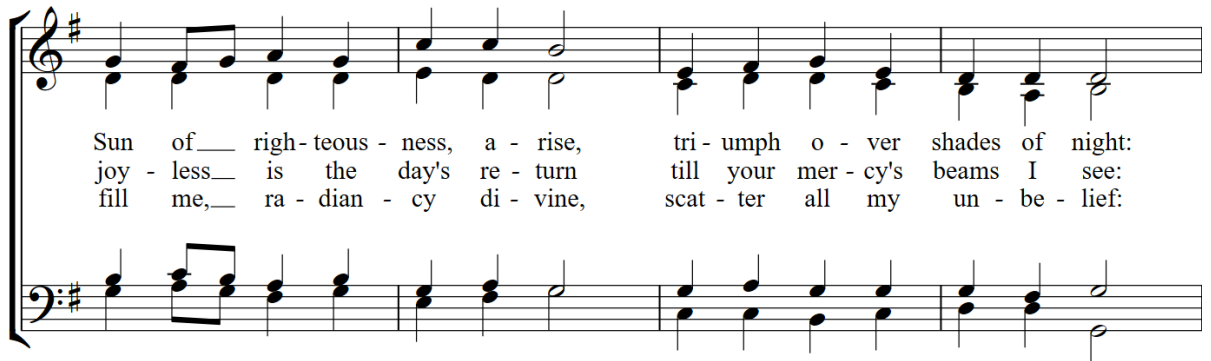
January 10, 2021 | Sanctuary Service

* Hymn of praise

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”



1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2. Dark and cheer - less is the dawn till your glo - ries shine on me;
3. Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o - ver shades of night:
joy - less is the day's re - turn till your mer - cy's beams I see:
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief:



Day - spring from on high be near; Day - star in my heart ap - pear!
as they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more your - self dis play, shin - ing to the per - fect day!

text by Charles Wesley, 1740; music by Conrad Kocher, 1838, DIX

* Prayer of adoration

Sacrament of baptism

Cara and Benjamin Palmer bringing Emmaline Hardy Palmer

Call to confession

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star”

Ensemble

Come, thou bright and Morning Star, Light of Light without beginning;
shine upon us from afar that we may be kept from sinning.
Drive away by thy clear light our dark night.

Let thy grace, like morning dew falling soft on barren places,
comfort, quicken, and renew our dry souls and dying graces;
bless thy flock from thy rich store evermore.

*text by Christian Knorr von Rosenroth; music from Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704,
MORGENGLANZ DER EWIGKEIT*

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

* Hymn of assurance

"Blessed Assurance"

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di -
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and

vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, — born of his Spir - it, washed in his
 sight; — an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove — ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of
 blest; — watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, — filled with his good - ness, lost in his

blood. — This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day
 love. —
 love. —

long; — this is my sto - ry, this is my song, — prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

²²The 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!" ²³As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴the 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.

²⁵As 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?" ²⁶When 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." ²⁷The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered. ²⁸Then the commander said, "I had to pay a big price for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied. ²⁹Those 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.

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

"God's Wisdom in a Volatile World"
Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults

The volatile 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 vital 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)
- Paul defines the God-given role of government to reward good and punish wrong. (Romans 13:4-5)
- Paul directs us to live faithfully before God by doing good for his glory always. (Col. 3:17)
- Paul defends enduring being wronged if it means we avoid doing wrong. (1 Cor. 6:7)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low Je - sus.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at Je - sus.
3. I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Je - sus.
Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain:

In him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God; shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

Postlude

Introduction and Toccata
Girolamo Frescobaldi

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Ensemble

Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ

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.

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.

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, 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.

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