



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 24, 2021 | **Sanctuary Service** | 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO LMPC! *We're so glad you are with us today. Please use the welcome card from the pew rack 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

Prelude

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
arr. James Michael Stevens

Welcome and announcements

Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults

*** Call to worship**

taken from Psalm 97

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

All: For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

* Hymn of praise

"This Is My Father's World"

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and_ to my lis-t'ning ears, all na - ture sings, and_
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the_ birds their car - ols raise, the morn - ing light, the_
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O__ let me ne'er for - get that though the wrong seems

round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This is my Fa-ther's world: I__ rest me in the
lil - y white, de - clare their Mak-er's praise. This is my Fa-ther's world: he__ shines in all that's
oft so strong, God is__ the Rul-er__ yet. This is my Fa-ther's world: the_ bat - tle is not

thought of__ rocks and trees, of__ skies and seas; his hand_ the won - ders_ wrought.
fair; in the rus - tling grass I__ hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
done; Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth_ and heav'n be__ one.

text by Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901; music by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926, TERRA BEATA

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

based on Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him. Let him turn to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Prayer of confession

Leader: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to bear, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Our wounds are too severe to mend, too intimate to escape, and too painful to ignore. Though these terrible events happened long ago, they are real now, and we are in desperate need of your forgiveness for the ways our church failed to act and allowed others to suffer.

All: Father, we have sinned. Forgive us and heal us.

Leader: For hurting our witness to your Gospel of justice and love by ignoring the pain of others with our silence...

All: Father, we have sinned. Forgive us and heal us.

Leader: For our reluctance to acknowledge the breadth and depth of harm against those within our flock...

All: Father, we have sinned. Forgive us and heal us. We have no ability to save or heal ourselves. Restore what sin has laid waste; our only hope is in you. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Healer of My Soul”

Ensemble

Ensemble: Healer of my soul, keep me at evening.
Keep me at morning, keep me at noon, healer of my soul.

Keeper of my soul, on rough course faring,
help and safeguard my means this night, keeper of my soul.

I am tired, astray and stumbling.
Shield my soul from the snare of sin.

**All: Healer of my soul, keep me at evening.
Keep me at morning, keep me at noon, healer of my soul.**

text and music by John Michael Talbot, arr. Carol Browning

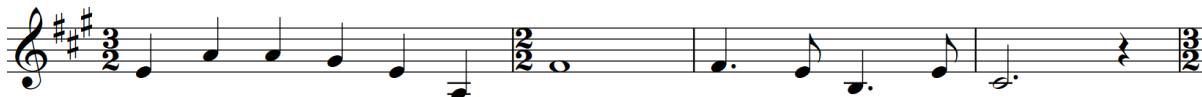
Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on Colossians 1:19-22

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

* Hymn of assurance

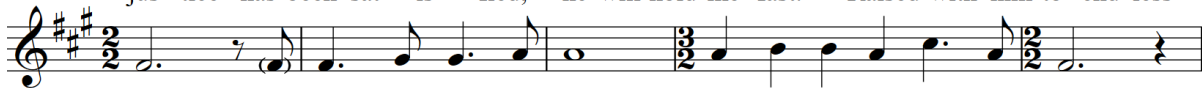
"He Will Hold Me Fast"



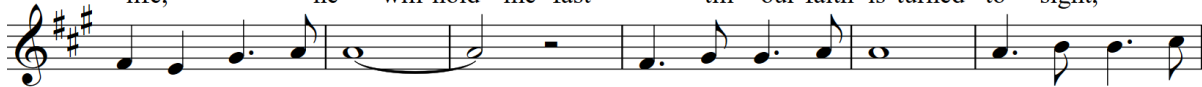
1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



when the tempt-er would pre-vail, he will hold me fast. I could nev-er keep my
pre-cious in his ho-ly sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be
jus-tice has been sat-is-fied; he will hold me fast. Raised with him to end-less



hold through life's fear-ful path; for my love is oft-en cold;
lost; his pro-mis-es shall last; bought by him at such a cost,
life, he will hold me fast till our faith is turned to sight,



he must hold me fast. _____ He will hold me fast, he will hold me
he will hold me fast. _____
when he comes at last! _____



fast; for my Sa-vior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

text by Ada Habershon, 1906; alt. text and music by Matt Merker ©2013 Matthew Merker Music, ARP, UBP,
CCLI Lic. #152036

Prayer of intercession and lament

Leader: Our Gracious Savior, the source of all forgiveness and healing, we come before you in lament over the devastation of abuse. This epidemic of evil is overwhelming and we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. Hear the cries of the suffering, rebuke the sins of the perpetrators, forgive the apathy of the indifferent, and reveal to us our own complicity that we might repent. Shape us into a community that actively cares for and protects the vulnerable, and help us to cultivate an atmosphere of trust which allows the unspeakable to be brought to light.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the survivors of abuse that took place here, those who have come forward and those who remain silent, we pray that you will restore what sin has laid waste. May our church's confession and repentance be a balm to their suffering and hope in their darkness, and may they not hold the sins of this church against you. More than anything, may they discover the renewing grace of your Gospel, which is ultimately destined to heal every wound and wipe every tear.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the survivors of all forms of abuse, particularly those among us this day, we pray for them in their suffering. May they know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that their suffering is not their fault, that their shame is a lie, and that your love is real. May they know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that help is available and healing is possible. Give mercy to those who suffer and lead them to your cross and resurrection as their eternal comfort and steadfast hope.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the perpetrators of sexual abuse and all forms of abuse, we pray for justice. May they be exposed and rebuked by the severe mercy of your providence, and may their brokenness yield true repentance and faith in you who alone can make the foulest clean.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the church of Jesus Christ, we pray for your grace and guidance to lead us. May our communities be known as the safest place for survivors and the most defended place from abusers, and may we apologize and repent where we have failed in this. In a world of sexual chaos, may we bear witness to your good and perfect design for human sexuality. May we be known as a counterculture to the insatiable lust and exploitation that we see and experience in this life.

All: 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.

Choral meditation

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Ensemble

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine, you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames. (*Refrain*)

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes. (*Refrain*)

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
and I love you, I love you, I love you,
I love you with a perfect love, a perfect love.

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine, you are mine, you are mine.
text based on Isaiah 43:1-4 by Gerard Markland, music by Philip W. J. Stopford, 2015

* **Scripture reading from Ephesians 5:8-14**
text printed in the bulletin

Rob Witcher (9:00)
David Wharton (11:00)

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 "Abuse and the Hope of the Gospel: Living as Children of Light"
Brian Salter, lead pastor

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"Heal Us, Emmanuel"

1. Heal us, Em - man - uel, here we are. We long to feel thy touch.
2. Our faith is fee - ble, we con - fess. We faint - ly trust thy word;
3. Re - mem - ber him who once ap - plied with trem - bling for re - lief.
4. She, too, who touched you in the press and heal - ing vir - tue stole,
5. Like her, with hopes and fears we come to touch you if we may.

Deep woun - ded souls, to thee we fly; O Sav - ior, hear our cry.
but will you pit - y us the less? Be that far from you, Lord!
"Lord, I be - lieve," with tears he cried; "O help my un - be - lief!"
was an - swered, "Daugh - ter, go in peace. Thy faith has made thee whole."
O send us not des - pair - ing home; send none un - healed a - way.

text by William Cowper, 1779; music by John B. Dykes, 1866, ST. AGNES

* Benediction

* Congregational response

“Threefold Amen”

Postlude

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

arr. Mark Hayes

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Randall Crenshaw – piano

Ensemble

Joy Gibbons – director

Hannah Pulliam – flute

Kristin Wykoff – soloist

NATIONAL SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

TODAY WE RECOGNIZE National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and call for prayer for the unborn, their precious mothers and fathers, and the families around them. Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church is a community which seeks to embrace God’s timeless concern for the most marginalized persons in every age and culture. It is in privileged participation with Jesus’ followers who have acted throughout history that we speak for and stand with those who have little or no voice today. We stand with them by voicing their petitions before the throne of God. We also stand with them through partnering with city-wide ministries such as Choices Pregnancy Resource Center, Bethany Christian Services, and Lookout for Orphans. We maintain that there is grace and forgiveness in Jesus for those who have had abortions, and we long to love and serve those who have made this choice or have been impacted by it in any way. Let us unite in prayer together for all who have been affected by abortion, for the ministries that we support in our city, and for God’s grace to help us be their humble friends and servants.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

SERMON NOTES

“Abuse and the Hope of the Gospel: Living as Children of Light”

Ephesians 5:8-14

Related to the tragic reality of abuse, living as children of light means:

1. promoting goodness. (vv. 9-10)
2. doing what is righteous. (vv. 9-10)
3. seeking and speaking truth. (vv. 9-10)
4. exposing darkness. (vv. 11-13)
5. waking up. (v. 14)
6. shining Christ. (v. 14)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WE WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT on Wednesday, February 3. Registration will open this Thursday, January 28, via Realm. The cost is \$5 per meal and pick-up will be from 5:30-6:00 p.m. under the porte-cochere. You may pay by cash, check, or Venmo (@LktMtnPC) when you pick up your meal. If you have problems registering, please contact the church office.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL OFFER A 2021 COMMUNICANT CLASS for any youth (grades 6-12) who are interested in joining LMPC. Please mark your calendars for February 19-21 (Friday night, Saturday morning, and one hour on Sunday morning). For more information and to sign up, email Margaret Compton at margaret@lmpc.org with the student's name, grade, and age.

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

2020 YEAR-END GIVING REPORT

Praise God for his abundant provision through his people at LMPC. While giving of \$4.966 million was under budget by approximately \$106,000, we had more than adequate funds to meet the operational and ministry needs of the church in 2020. Giving in 2020 was approximately 1.9% above 2019 and giving to LMPC-supported missionaries and ministries was approximately \$1.617 million. Thank you for your generous gifts toward the work of the Kingdom at LMPC.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON ABUSE

GRACE recommendation #17: *GRACE recommends that LMPC review the resources on the LMPC campus to be sure that resources exist for families impacted by all forms of abuse. This should include books and links to appropriate counseling in which a licensed clinician is able to provide evidence-based therapy and, within that setting, to also address the spiritual impact of all forms of abuse and misconduct.*

LMPC response: The Safeguarding Team will commend to our library specific resources for families impacted by all forms of abuse. We will notify the congregation of these resources and also include these recommended resources and links on our website.

In an effort to begin following through on our Session-approved response, please consider these recommended resources for education, help, and spiritual guidance when considering the impact of all forms of abuse. These books are all in the LMPC library.

Books *(Many of these are available for order at netgrace.org/books, through New Growth Press. Most are also readily available through Amazon.)*

What the Bible Says to Abuse Survivors and Those Who Hurt Them

By Victor Vieth

The Spiritual Impact of Sexual Abuse

By Diane Langberg

Is it Abuse?: A Biblical Guide to Identifying Domestic Abuse and Helping Victims

By Darby Strickland

On This Rock: A Call to Center the Christian Response to Child Abuse on the Life and Words of Jesus

By Victor Vieth

Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores

By Diane Langberg

Rid Of My Disgrace: Hope And Healing For Victims Of Sexual Assault

By Justin Holcomb & Lindsey Holcomb

Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church

By Diane Langberg

Shame Interrupted: How God Lifts the Pain of Worthlessness and Rejection

By Edward Welch

Something's Not Right: Decoding the Hidden Tactics of Abuse and Freeing Yourself from Its Power

By Wade Mullen

What Is a Girl Worth?: My Story of Breaking the Silence and Exposing the Truth about Larry Nassar and USA Gymnastics

By Rachel Denhollander

Books for Young Children:

God Made All Of Me: A Book To Help Children Protect Their Bodies

By Justin & Lindsey Holcomb

How Much Is a Little Girl Worth?

By Rachel Denhollander

Articles

netgrace.org/resources/category/Articles

Videos

netgrace.org/resources/category/Videos

TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, January 24

9:00 a.m.	Worship service	<i>sanctuary and fellowship hall</i>
11:00 a.m.	Worship service	<i>sanctuary and fellowship hall</i>
11:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	<i>via Zoom</i>
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group	<i>fellowship hall</i>

Additional seating for the sanctuary services is available in the chapel.

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

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

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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.

Devices to amplify sound during the Sunday morning worship services are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.