



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 31, 2021 | Fellowship Hall Service

Order of Worship

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
2. This is my Fa - ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise, the
3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get that
na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Mak - er's praise. This
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet. This
is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
is my Fa - ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the
is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - 'ry - where.
-sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

* 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

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

“Before the Throne of God Above”



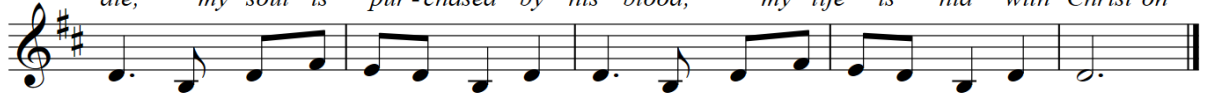
1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea, a great High
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the guilt with - in, up - ward I
3. Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un -



Priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is gra - ven on his
look and see him there who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sa - vior
chang - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace! *One with him - self, I can - not*



hands, my name is writ - ten on his heart; I know that while in heav'n he
died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed free; for God, the Just, is sat - is -
die; my soul is pur - chased by his blood; my life is hid with Christ on



stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part; no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
fied to look on him and par - don me; to look on him and par - don me.
high, with Christ, my Sa - vior and my God; with Christ, my Sa - vior and my God.

text by Charitie Lees Bancroft, 1863; music by Vikki Cook, 1997

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.

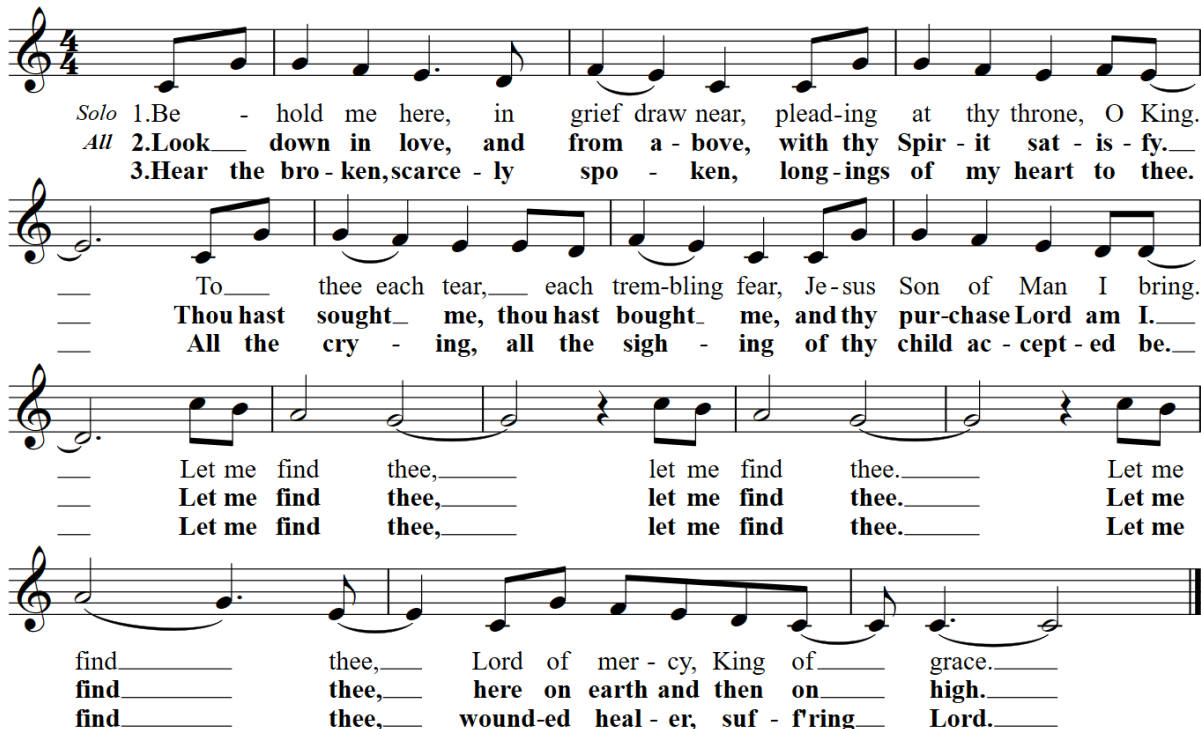
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Hymn of lament

“Let Me Find Thee”



Solo 1. Be - hold me here, in grief draw near, plead-ing at thy throne, O King.
All 2. Look down in love, and from a - bove, with thy Spir - it sat - is - fy.
 3. Hear the bro - ken, scarce - ly spo - ken, long-ings of my heart to thee.

— To thee each tear, each trem-bling fear, Je-sus Son of Man I bring.
 — Thou hast sought me, thou hast bought me, and thy pur-chase Lord am I.
 — All the cry - ing, all the sigh - ing of thy child ac - cept - ed be.

— Let me find thee, let me find thee. Let me
 — Let me find thee, let me find thee. Let me
 — Let me find thee, let me find thee. Let me

find thee, Lord of mer - cy, King of grace.
 find thee, here on earth and then on high.
 find thee, wound-ed heal - er, suf - f'ring Lord.

text by Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; music by Matthew Smith, 2012

* Scripture reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

Diane Marble

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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

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

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)

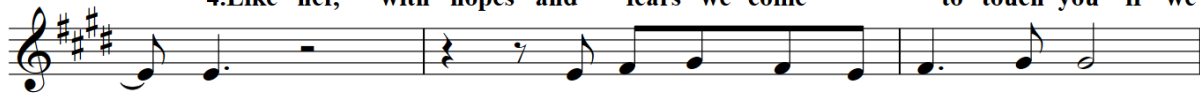
Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

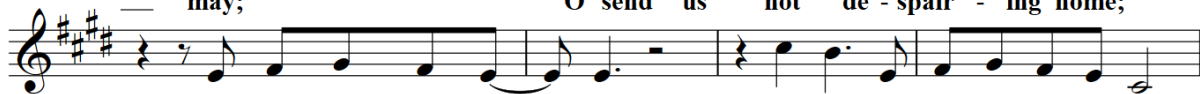
"Heal Us, Emmanuel"



Solo 1.Our faith is fee - ble we con - fess, we faint - ly trust thy
All 2.Re - mem - ber him who once ap - plied, with trem - bling for re -
3.She, too, who touched you in the press, and heal - ing vir - tue
4.Like her, with hopes and fears we come to touch you if we



— word; but will you pi - ty us the less?
- lief; "Lord, I be - lieve," with tears he cried;
— stole, was an - swered, "Daugh - ter, go in peace;
— may; O send us not de - spair - ing home;



Be that far from you, — Lord! Heal us, Em - man - uel here we are.
"O help my un - be - lief!"
thy faith has made thee — whole!"
send none un - healed a - way.



We long to feel thy — touch. Deep wound - ed



souls to thee we fly; O, Sav - ior hear our — cry.

text by William Cowper, 1779; music by Kevin Twit and Lucas Morton, 2015

* 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

* Congregation standing as you are able

Musicians for this week:

Joel Christie – vocalist
Charley Crichton – bass
David Henry – guitar, vocalist
Hannah Lutz – viola

Jennifer Mixon – vocalist
Charlotte Reeder – vocalist
Caroline West – violin
Bob Wharton – piano

EMMA KATE MOONEY, SUPPORTED MISSIONARY IN CARDIFF

Please join us in praying for LMPC member, Emma Kate Mooney, as she prepares to return to Cardiff, Wales, to continue her service with Pioneers. Emma Kate was born and raised on Lookout Mountain. It was during her short-term missions trips to the Middle East in 2011 and 2013, and her time in Ankara, Turkey in 2014, that her eyes and heart were opened to asylum seekers and refugees fleeing neighboring countries. She has spent the last 18 months in Cardiff, Wales, serving on a Pioneers team where she teaches English to women of all different nationalities, serves on the international student and families teams with her local church, and spends time with international women who are survivors of trauma. She is a trained Trauma Healing Facilitator through American Bible Society which will be her main focus in ministry this year. It is her deep desire to share the love of Christ as she seeks to build relationships with women of all the nations who are coming to Cardiff.



If you are interested in learning more about Emma Kate's work with Pioneers, please contact Stephanie in the Missions Office at stephanie@lmpc.org.

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

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

AS WE END THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR, we wanted you to know that you can still 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, 65% of the budget has been pledged with 292 families (42% of family units at LMPC) having submitted a giving plan. Find out more about pledging and the 2021 budget at lmpc.org/give.

ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US for Salt and Light, February 3-7, 2021. You can find the full schedule at lmpc.org/youth. Registration is not required but Covid protocols will be implemented. On Saturday, February 6, we will take a skiing day trip for which registration via Realm is required. If you have questions, please email annie@lmpc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT RESUMES this Wednesday, February 3. Registration is now open 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.

ALL WOMEN OF LMPC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND our next Semester in the Psalms Large Group meeting this Thursday, February 4. Registration is now open via Realm. You can register and find the full semester's schedule for both large and small group meetings at lmpc.org/women.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: We will be holding an in-person women's "mini-retreat" on Saturday, February 27. The topic will be "Refresh: A Morning on Grief and Hope" and our speakers will be Caroline Scruggs and Julia Friedman. The cost is \$20 which includes a take-home lunch, and registration will open this Friday, February 5. You can find more information at lmpc.org/women.

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