



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 7, 2021 | **Sanctuary Service**

# Order of Worship

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## Prelude

Meditation on Two American Melodies  
"Jerusalem My Happy Home" and "Deep River"  
*arr. Kimo Smith*

## Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

## Introit

"Bless the Lord"  
*Mark Perry, soloist*

Ensemble

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

It is God who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals ev'ry one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

As a father has compassion on his children,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;  
for God knows of what we are made,  
God remembers that we are dust.  
*text from Psalm 103; music from Taizé Community*

## \* Call to worship

1 Chronicles 29:10b-12

Leader: Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.**

Leader: Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

**All: Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.**

\* Hymn of praise

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

1.Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2.Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,  
 3.Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion! All ye who  
 shel-ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him! Let the a -

hear, now to his tem-ple draw near, join me in glad ad-o - ra - tion.  
 seen how thy de-sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or-dain - eth?  
 men sound from his peo-ple a - gain; glad-ly for - e'er we a - dore him.

*text based on Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680; music from Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665, LOBE DEN HERREN*

\* Prayer of adoration

## \* Affirmation of faith

Leader: What is the message of the Gospel?

**All: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and he was buried. He was raised on the third day and appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.**

*based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 22:13; John 20:28*

## Call to confession

based on Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## Silent prayers of confession

### Vocal meditation

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

*William Darby, soloist*

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears:  
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands.  
My name is written on his hands, my name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;  
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.  
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,  
“nor let that ransomed sinner die, nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; his pard’ning voice I hear;  
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;  
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,  
and “Father, Abba, Father!” cry, “Father!” cry.

Arise, my soul, arise!

And “Father, Abba, Father!” cry. Arise, my soul, arise.

*text by Charles Wesley, 1742; music by Dan Forrest, 2012*

**Assurance of God's pardoning grace**

based on The Heidelberg Catechism, question 56

Leader: Christian, what do you believe regarding Christ's atonement?

**All: I believe that God, because of Christ's atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I will struggle against all my life. Rather, in his grace, God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.**

\* Hymn of assurance

*"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"  
(continue scrolling for words and music)*

"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lo - ver of my soul;  
2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;  
3. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.  
tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.  
he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

<sup>1</sup>Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. <sup>2</sup>When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: "We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. <sup>3</sup>Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. <sup>4</sup>But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly. <sup>5</sup>We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect <sup>6</sup>and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. <sup>8</sup>By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him." <sup>9</sup>The Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

<sup>10</sup>When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. <sup>11</sup>You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>12</sup>My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. <sup>13</sup>And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. <sup>14</sup>However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, <sup>15</sup>and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. <sup>16</sup>So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. <sup>17</sup>After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. <sup>18</sup>I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. <sup>19</sup>But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup>Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— <sup>21</sup>unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

<sup>22</sup>Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup>He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. <sup>24</sup>Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>As Paul

discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." <sup>26</sup>At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. <sup>27</sup>When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

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**

**"The Apostle and the Gospel Are on Trial Again!"**

Joe Novenson, pastor of senior adults

1. The Prosecution — BEWARE of pretty words and partial truths, masking unfounded accusations that aggressively oppose the Gospel. (vv. 1-9)
2. The Defense — BE AWARE that the resurrection and faith in Christ Jesus are always at the heart of the case for grace. (vv. 10-21)
3. The Outcome — BEWARE of flirting with faith for personal gain rather than fixing our faith on Christ for true allegiance. (vv. 22-27)
  - "He sent for him frequently and talked with him." (v. 26)
  - "At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe." (v. 26)
  - "Felix was afraid." (v. 25)
  - "When I find it convenient..." (v. 25)
  - "When two years had passed...he left Paul in prison." (v. 27)



# Pastoral prayer

## \* Hymn of response

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

1. Ye ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro - claim, and pub-lish a - broad his  
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might-y to save; and still he is nigh, his  
3. Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne! Let all cry a - loud and  
4. Then let us a - dore, and give him his right, all glo - ry and pow'r, and

won - der - ful name; the name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex -  
pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall  
hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro -  
wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a -

tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.  
sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.  
claim, fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.  
bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing for in - fi - nite love.

text by Charles Wesley, 1744; music by Johann Michael Haydn, arr. in William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815, LYONS

\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

**Postlude**

Toccata on LYONS  
*arr. Michael Burkhardt*

\* *Congregation standing as you are able*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**William Darby** – soloist  
**Ensemble**  
**Daniel Jeong** – violin

**Joshua Knight** – organ  
**Mark Perry** – soloist

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are from the wedding of Erin Fowler and Griffin Hatcliff on February 6. They are given in loving memory of grandmothers Jacklyn Fowler, Phyllis Hatcliff, and Willene McIntosh and in honor of grandmother, Dorothy Bohl.

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR REGULAR SERMON RESOURCE** (“Further up, Further in: Resources for Continued Study”) will not be available this week. Our adult discipleship team is emailing small group leaders with some suggested general questions, and you are welcome to email [info@lmpc.org](mailto:info@lmpc.org) if you would like to receive a copy of those.

**JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT** this Wednesday, February 10. 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.

**WE WILL OFFER A 2021 COMMUNICANT CLASS** for any youth (grades 6-12) who are interested in joining LMPC, February 19-21. For more information and to sign up, email Margaret Compton at [margaret@lmpc.org](mailto:margaret@lmpc.org) with the student’s name, grade, and age.

**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 opens today. You can find more information at [lmpc.org/women](http://lmpc.org/women).

**WHILE WE ARE NOT HOSTING A DIVORCE CARE GROUP AT LMPC** this spring, we are recommending an online group that begins February 18. Divorce Care is a divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce. If you have questions or would like more information on how to access this group, please contact Leon Sulser at [leonsulser@gmail.com](mailto:leonsulser@gmail.com) or Rodney Miller at [rodney.miller@covenant.edu](mailto:rodney.miller@covenant.edu).

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/news](http://lmpc.org/news)*