

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

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" Ensemble

Mark Perry, soloist

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

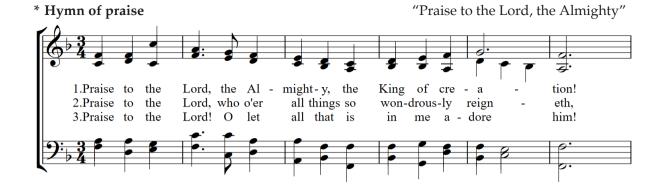
1 Chronicles 29:10b-12

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

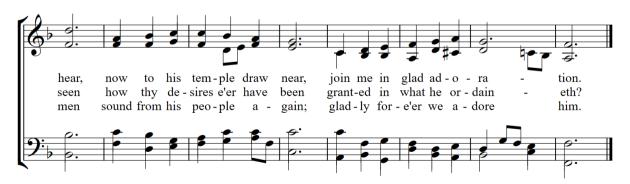
All: Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

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.







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 I 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.

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

^{*} Hymn of assurance



text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

¹Five 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. ²When 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. ³Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. ⁴But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly. ⁵We 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 ⁶and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. ⁶By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him." ⁶The Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

¹⁰When 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. 11You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹²My 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. ¹³And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴However, 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, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. ¹⁷After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹But 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. ²⁰Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin—²¹unless 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.""

²²Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." ²³He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. ²⁴Several 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. ²⁵As 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." ²⁶At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. ²⁷When 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.

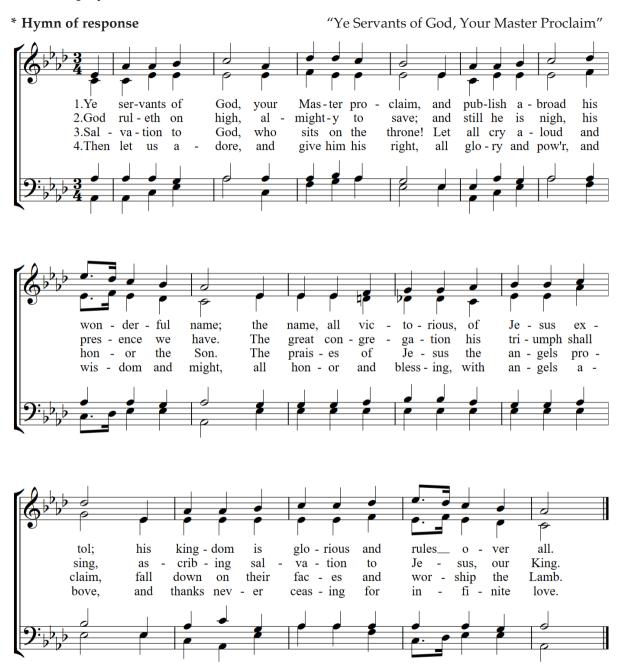
Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

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



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

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 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 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.

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 or Rodney Miller at rodney.miller@covenant.edu.

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