



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 14, 2021 | Fellowship Hall Service

Order of Worship

Welcome and announcements

John Wingard, ruling elder

* Call to worship

based on Isaiah 40 and Jeremiah 32

Leader: The sovereign LORD sits enthroned above the circle of the earth. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?

All: **He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.**

Leader: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

All: **Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. Great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds!**

* Hymn of praise

“O Worship the King”

1. O wor-ship the King all - glo-rious a - bove, O grate-ful - ly sing his
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose
3. Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in you do we trust, nor
pow'r_ and his love; our shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of
can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds
find_ you to fail; your mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the
Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
form, and dark is his path on the wings_ of the storm.
end. our Ma - ker. De - fen - der. Re - deem - er. and Friend!

based on Psalm 104, text by Robert Grant, 1833; music by Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

* Prayer of adoration

Call to confession

taken from Romans 3:20-24

No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Hymn of confession

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
Prince of glo - ry_ died, my rich - est gain I count but_
death of Christ my_ God: all the vain things that charm me_
love flow min - gled_ down: did e'er such love and sor - row_
pre - sent far too_ small; love so a - ma - zing, so di -
loss,_____ and pour con - tempt_____ on all my pride.
most,_____ I sac - ri - fice_____ them to his blood.
meet,_____ or thorns com - pose_____ so rich a crown?
vine,_____ de - mands my soul,_____ my life, my all.

text by Isaac Watts, 1707; music from traditional English melody, © WALY WALY

Silent prayers of confession

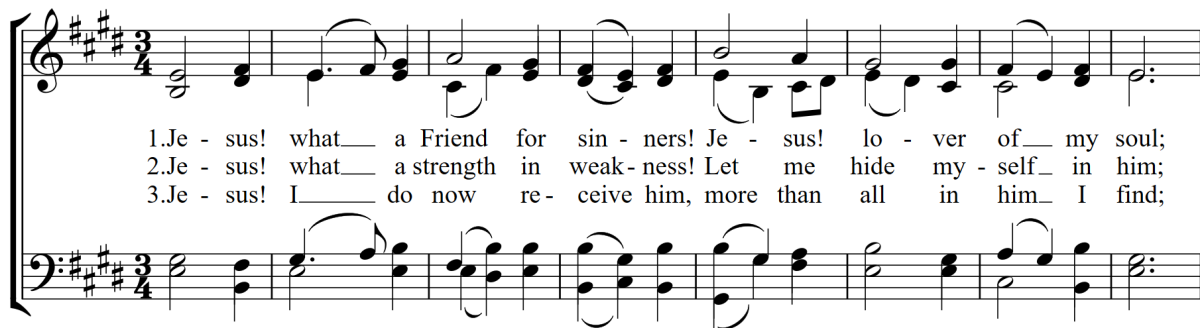
Assurance of God's pardoning grace

taken from Romans 5:6-8

At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

* Hymn of assurance

"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.

Affirmation of God's providence

Leader: What is God's providence?

All: God's providence is his completely holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing every creature and every action.

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

All: The almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Leader: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

All: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

based on Westminster Shorter Catechism, question 11 and Heidelberg Catechism, questions 27 and 28

Hymn of preparation

*"Give to the Winds Thy Fears"
(continue scrolling for words and music)*

"Give to the Winds Thy Fears"



1. Give	to the winds thy fears;_____	hope and be un - dis - mayed.
2. Leave	to his sov - reign sway_____	to choose and to__ com - mand.
3. You	see our weak - ness, Lord;_____	our hearts are known to thee.__
4. Through	waves and clouds and storms._____	he gent - ly clears the way.__



—	God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;_	our God will lift up,_
—	Then shalt thou, wan - d'ring, own his way;_	how wise, how strong,_
—	O lift thou up our sink - ing hearts_	to know thy mer - cy,_
—	Wait thou his time; so shall this night_	soon end in joy,___



our God will lift up,_____	our God will lift up thy head.
how wise, how strong,_____	how wise, how strong_ his hand.
to know thy mer - cy,_____	to know thy mer - cy and pow'r.
soon end in joy,_____	soon end in joy - ous day.

text by Paul Gerhardt, 1656, translated by John Wesley; music by Jon Caudill, 2002

* **Scripture reading from Acts 25:1-27**

Will Givens

¹Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, ²where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul. ³They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. ⁴Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. ⁵Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong."

⁶After spending eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him. ⁷When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. ⁸Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." ⁹Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?" ¹⁰Paul answered:

“I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. ¹¹If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!” ¹²After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

¹³A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. ¹⁴Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul’s case with the king. He said: “There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. ¹⁵When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned. ¹⁶I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand over any man before he has faced his accusers and has had an opportunity to defend himself against their charges. ¹⁷When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. ¹⁸When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. ¹⁹Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. ²⁰I was at a loss how to investigate such matters; so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. ²¹When Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor’s decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar.” ²²Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear this man myself.” He replied, “Tomorrow you will hear him.”

²³The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high ranking officers and the leading men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. ²⁴Festus said: “King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. ²⁶But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. ²⁷For I think it is unreasonable to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him.”

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

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Not by Chance, but by God’s Fatherly Hand”

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. A deceitful request providentially denied (vv. 1-5)
2. An old tactic newly employed (vv. 6-12)
3. A thorny dilemma briefly presented (vv. 13-22)
4. A Gospel opportunity sovereignly appointed (vv. 23-27)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”



1.O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wear - y
2.O Light that foll-ow'st all my way, I yield my flick'-ring
3.O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my
4.O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to



soul in thee; I give thee back the li - fe I owe, that
torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may ri - cher, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may brigh - ter, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there bless - oms red life that shall end - less be.

text by George Matheson, 1882; music by Christopher Miner, 1997

* 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:

Abi Davis – clarinet

David Henry – guitar, vocalist

Erika Lines – vocalist

Hannah Lutz – viola

Scott Quatro – vocalist

John Reeder – piano

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, 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 298 families (43% of family units at LMPC) having submitted a giving plan. Find out more about pledging and the 2021 budget at lmpc.org/give.

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT this Wednesday, February 17. 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 18. 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 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 is open via Realm. You can find more information at lmpc.org/women.

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS OF LMPC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND TWO ONLINE SEMINARS designed to build awareness around sexual abuse and help us become better equipped to create a safe community for all at LMPC. These seminars will take place on February 21 and 28 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom and have been organized by LMPC as part of our response to the recent GRACE report and recommendations. Members will have received a registration link earlier this week; if you did not receive one, please email diane@lmpc.org. You can find more information at lmpc.org/investigation.

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