



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 27, 2021 | **Sanctuary Service**

Order of Worship

Prelude

*“Fantasia à gusto italiano”
Johann Ludwig Krebs*

Welcome and announcements

Wil Nettleton, pastor of outreach

*** Call to worship**

based on Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

All: We will praise the LORD all our lives; we will sing praise to our God as long as we live.

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

All: The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow. The LORD reigns forever—for all generations. Praise the LORD!

*** Hymn of praise 441, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns; the pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

text based on Psalm 72 by Isaac Watts, 1719; music by John Hatton, 1793, DUKE STREET

* Prayer of adoration

Affirmation of faith

based on Philippians 2:5-11

Leader: What do the scriptures teach us about Jesus Christ?

All: That he, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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.

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Women’s Ensemble

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O Hope of ev’ry contrite heart, O Joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

text is Latin, 11th cent.; music by John B. Dykes, 1866, ST. AGNES

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

based on 2 Corinthians 5 and Zephaniah 3

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

All: **Therefore, be glad and rejoice! For the LORD has taken away our punishment. The LORD our God is with us, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in us, he will quiet us with his love, he will rejoice over us with singing.**

* **Hymn of assurance 508**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am, thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

text by Charles Wesley, 1740; music by Joseph Parry, 1879, ABERYSTWYTH

Prayer of intercession for those with heavy hearts

Leader: God of all love and compassion, wisdom and knowledge, you know our hearts better than we do. You know the questions that burden us, the fears that drive us to despair, and the doubts that isolate us.

All: **We pray now for those in our midst and around the world who are experiencing profound hopelessness, unbearable sorrow, and overwhelming loneliness today.**

Leader: Send your Spirit to all whose minds are weighed down by anxiety and restlessness. Encourage their hearts and grant them a sense of your presence with them always.

All: Soften our hearts to see the wounds in one another and teach us to be people of compassion. May we all cling to your promise that when we are afraid, we can trust in you. We can cast our burdens on you and you will sustain us.

based on Psalms 55 and 56

* Scripture reading from Genesis 31:22-55

Wil Nettleton

²²When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, ²³he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. ²⁴But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? ²⁷Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? ²⁸And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. ²⁹It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' ³⁰And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" ³¹Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. ³²Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

³³So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. ³⁴Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. ³⁵And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

³⁶Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? ³⁷For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. ³⁸These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and

your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. ³⁹What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. ⁴⁰There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. ⁴¹These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. ⁴²If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

⁴³Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me." ⁴⁵So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed, ⁴⁹and Mizpah, for he said, "The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. ⁵⁰If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

⁵¹Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. ⁵²This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. ⁵³The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, ⁵⁴and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country. ⁵⁵Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

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

"Returning to the Land of Promise"
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The fruitlessness of self-reliance
2. The faithfulness of God's grace
3. The rightness of seeking reliance on God

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 498, vv. 1, 2, 5

"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*
text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

"Threefold Amen"

* **Postlude**

"Allegro" from Six Short Preludes & Postludes
Charles Villiers Stanford

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director
Joshua Knight – organ

Women's Ensemble

Handbells:

Christie Dodson
Jennifer Mixon
Julie Reinink

Susan Smisson
Jennifer West

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in honor of a loving God and are in celebration of the wedding of Tay Tay Stroud and Carter Helm on June 26, 2021. They are in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Stroud, Mrs. Taylor Merrill, Mr. Charles Phillips and Mr. and Mrs. James Leslie Kelley.

Celebrating the baptism of Mason William Kent at the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall today are his parents, Ashley and William Kent, his grandparents, Clare and Jonathan Kent and Charlotte Lindeman, and his great-grandmother, Martha Griffin.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR NEXT WOMEN'S SUMMER SUPPERS will take place on Tuesday, July 13. Registration via Realm is now open. Please make plans to join us for an evening of food and fellowship with other women from our church and community. If you would like to host a supper, please email women@lmpc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A 2021 PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT on Sunday, July 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. General Assembly is the annual meeting of representative elders and churches of the denomination of the PCA and is taking place this week, June 28-July 2 in St. Louis. Please pray for the assembly and plan to join us for the report in July.

OUR MONTHLY VIP EVENTS ARE RESUMING IN JULY! To welcome everyone back, we invite you to join us for pizza and popcorn at our annual VIP Movie Night on Thursday, July 15, at 6:00 p.m. To allow everyone to spread out as desired, we will meet in the fellowship hall. There is no cost to join us, but we do request that you RSVP no later than Monday, July 12. You can register via Realm or by calling the LMPC church office at 423-821-4528.