



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 22, 2021 | Sanctuary Service

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Prelude in Classic Style”
Gordon Young

Welcome and announcements

Derek Halvorson, President of Covenant College

Introit

“Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

text based on Isaiah 40:4; music by George Frideric Handel from “Messiah”

* Call to worship

taken from Jeremiah 32 and 1 Chronicles 16

Leader: Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

All: You show love to thousands—O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds.

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

All: Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

* Hymn of praise 75, vv. 1, 2, 4

“O Father, You Are Sovereign”

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean’s shore,
sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest’s roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
no pow’rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
you hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
but soon before your triumph earth’s every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:
our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!

text by Margaret Clarkson, 1982; music by Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615, st. THEODULPH

*** Prayer of adoration**

*** Affirmation of faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call to confession

based on Romans 3

No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. 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. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, your word tells us that you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

based on Micah 6:8, Psalm 51, and The Book of Common Prayer

Hymn of confession 461, vv. 1, 2

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,
can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

2 Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 12:1-2

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*** Hymn of assurance 461, vv. 3, 4, 5**

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
no strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
and with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb
each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;
he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
‘Tis he who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives.

text by Horatius Bonar, 1861; music by George William Martin, 1862, arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874,

LEOMINSTER

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

text based on Isaiah 40:5; music by George Frideric Handel from "Messiah"

*** Scripture reading from Luke 3:1-20**

Derek Halvorson

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with

unquenchable fire.”¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done,²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John 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

“God Prepares His People for His Gracious Coming”
Wil Nettleton, pastor of outreach

1. God’s messenger prepares the people for his arrival. (vv. 1-6)
 - God’s coming will have a historic context. (vv. 1-2)
 - God’s coming requires repentance. (vv. 2-3)
 - God’s coming fulfills his promises. (vv. 4-6)
2. God’s messenger preaches his message. (vv. 7-14)
 - God’s message provides a warning. (vv. 7-9)
 - God’s message invites particular repentance. (vv. 10-14)
3. God’s messenger promises someone greater than himself. (vv. 15-18)
 - The promised one is greater than John. (v. 16)
 - The promised one’s baptism is greater than John’s baptism. (v. 16)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 196**, vv. 1, 3, 4

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

text by Charles Wesley, 1744 and Mark E. Hunt, 1978; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

Sonata No. 3 in A Major: Con moto maestoso
Felix Mendelssohn

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Musicians for this week:

Janel Frazee – soloist
Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in memory of Ruthie Howell, who died of leukemia in 1981 at age 11. Since LMPC is the only church home that Ruthie ever knew, her parents, Annetta and Charlie, honor her memory with flowers in the sanctuary every year around her birthday.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUILD-A-BAG, OUR ANNUAL FOOD COLLECTION for the Chattanooga Area Salvation Army, continues this week. You can pick up a bag with attached shopping list from the fellowship hall lobby or Small Conference Room. Please return your filled bags by Sunday, September 5. More information can be found on the missions bulletin board and at lmpc.org/build-a-bag. Please help us reach our goal of 325 bags!

OUR WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP FALL KICK-OFF will take place tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us for an evening of food and fellowship as we celebrate being back together, and hear what is ahead for Women's Discipleship in the coming year. We will enjoy dinner from Bob's Brick Oven and worship led by Jennifer Daniels. The cost is \$10 per person, and no prior registration is required.

WE WILL RESUME EVENING PRAYER TONIGHT with a Communion Service at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. This service includes hymns and songs of praise accompanied by piano as well as intercessory prayer and a homily. All are welcome to join.

OUR CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER GROUP WILL BEGIN MEETING this Tuesday, August 24, in the Reception Room as well as via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The purpose of this group is to provide inspiration, information, and intercession for those who are caring for a loved one or having to make decisions about care. The group is facilitated by Lee Ballenger and Ed Salter. For more information, email edwardsalter815@gmail.com.

OUR REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES, including children's choirs, fellowship suppers, and children's clubs, will begin on Wednesday, September 1. Please join us! To register for a children's music ministry opportunity, visit your Events tab on Realm. Visit lmpc.org/wednesday for more information about Wednesday nights.

FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES WILL BEGIN the week of September 5. You can find a full schedule of studies at lmpc.org/womens-bible-studies.

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

RENEW CAMPAIGN VISION GATHERINGS

Please save the date and plan to attend one of our upcoming Vision Gatherings for the RENEW Campaign on September 7, 16, or 19 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and hear our lead pastor, Brian Salter, explain the vision for RENEW and for the future of LMPC. Please RSVP for your date of choice by September 2 by logging into your Realm account or by calling the church office at 423-821-4528.

FINANCE UPDATE THROUGH JULY 31, 2021

Annual Budget: \$5,179,800

2021 Giving YTD: \$2,609,298

Remaining gifts needed: \$2,570,502

Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$1,423,630

Unpledged Giving Needed: \$1,146,872

We are grateful to God for the generosity of his people here at LMPC. You can find various ways to give at lmpc.org/give.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: FALL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Elementary Ministry needs you! As we work to resume typical activities, we are in need of volunteers to be teachers and classroom helpers for Wednesday night classes for pre-K - 5th graders. If you are interested in serving in this way please contact Greta Erickson at greta@lmpc.org for more information.

If you're interested in getting involved, but Sunday morning is a better time for you, we are still looking for classroom helpers at both 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Please email greta@lmpc.org to inform Greta of your availability.