

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

* Call to worship Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with

gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

All: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give

thanks to him and praise his name.

All: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness

continues through all generations.

* **Hymn of praise** "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King. Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress; praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glorious in his faithfulness. Praise him, praise him, praise him, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.

Praise him, praise him, praise him, widely as his mercy goes.

Praise him, praise him, praise him, widely as his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face; sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace. Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace. text by Henry Lyte, 1834; music by Christopher Miner, 1997

Call to confession Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

Ephesians 1:3-8

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

All: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

* **Hymn of assurance** "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

Worship in the giving of God's tithe and our offerings

Offertory hymn

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure. How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns his face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders; ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished; his dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

text and music by Stuart Townend © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

* Scripture reading from Luke 7:36-50

Maryellen Mixon

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who

is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"When Grace Grips One and Gripes Another" Brian Salter, lead pastor

- 1. Jesus has something to say to sinners. (vv. 36-43)
 - Face your haughty heart and plead for this harlot's heart. (vv. 36-39)
 - Face the enormity of your debt and receive the extravagant forgiveness of Jesus. (vv. 40-42, 48-50)
- 2. Jesus has something for sinners to see. (vv. 44-50)
 - Behold the woman's extravagant love: her sins are many and are forgiven.
 - Beware of the self-righteous response: he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum; thrown into the sea without bottom or shore: our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.

Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn—our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father, so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor: our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. *Refrain*

What riches of kindness he lavished on us. His blood was the payment, his life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford: our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. Refrain text and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa ©2016 Getty Music ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

- * 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.

* Congregation standing as you are able

Musicians for this week:

Grady Dickinson – alto saxophone **Mary Boyde Funches** – vocalist **David Henry** – guitar, vocalist Rebecca McCracken – vocalist Christina Sullivan – piano Chapman Whitted – guitar

The rosebud in the fellowship hall today is for the birth of Jane Palfrey Lowery, born to Margaret and Grayson Lowery on April 20.

PILLAR AND GROUND - AN LMPC PODCAST

This new podcast series for the LMPC family premieres on **Monday**, **April 25**. Its purpose is to help us deepen our knowledge of the ground on which we stand and increase our connection to those with whom we stand together in community and mission.

PILLAR AND GROUND

Listen for three episodes each week: *Our Connections* (interviews), *Our Questions* (biblical perspective), and *Our Confession* (teaching).

Find it now on most podcast player apps (Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, etc.), listen to the trailer, subscribe or follow, and select the notification bell to be informed every time a new episode drops. Episodes will be 15-20 minutes. Listen on your schedule.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall today for the purpose of electing the nominated elders and deacons to the class of 2025. A brochure about the candidates is available at lmpc.org/election-of-officer-candidates and in print.

JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. Annie Reynolds will be commissioned as she prepares to travel to Glasgow, Scotland, for a short term missions trip.

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT this Wednesday, April 27. Registration is via Realm and pick-up is in the porte-cochere. Please note that the registration deadline is Monday, April 25 at midnight. We will not have a dine-in option for the remainder of the semester.

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES: Please consider joining one of our ensembles this summer! A Handbell Ensemble will play in services during May and June and will practice on Tuesdays beginning April 26 at 5:00 p.m. A Women's Ensemble will sing in the sanctuary in June, and a Men's Ensemble will sing in the sanctuary in July. Choral Ensembles will practice on Sunday mornings. For more information or to sign up, contact Joy Gibbons at joy@lmpc.org.

LMPC MEN, JOIN US FOR MOUNTAIN MEN'S BREAKFAST this Saturday, April 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will fellowship, share breakfast together, and hear the encouraging story of God's faithfulness in the life of one of the men in our congregation.

WOMEN OF LMPC, JOIN US FOR SPRING FELLOWSHIP DAY on Saturday, May 7. We will enjoy a day of fellowship and recreation as we offer groups for hiking, walking, and coffee at both 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Register on Realm for your preferred time slot and activity, and you will be contacted with specific details.

MOUNTAIN MEN, STEAK NIGHT IS BACK! Our next men's steak night will be Thursday, May 12. This event allows for 8-12 guys to gather at a home to eat MEAT and fellowship around the table. Invite your friends and join us. Please send an email by Wednesday, May 4 to mountainmen@lmpc.org to RSVP and to tell us who is coming with you. If you would like to host a group in your home, please email us at mountainmen@lmpc.org.

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