

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 1, 2022 | **Fellowship Hall Service** | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**WELCOME TO LMPC!** *We're so glad you are with us today. Please scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to share important information with us through an online form. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you **silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship** so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God.*

**CHILDCARE:** *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to the crayons and activity sheets relevant to today's sermon that are provided for children each week.*

## Order of Worship

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Welcome and greetings

Wil Nettleton, pastor of outreach

\* Call to worship

taken from Psalm 146

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

**All: I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I 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.**

Leader: The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**All: The LORD reigns forever—for all generations. Praise the LORD.**

\* Hymn of praise

“O Worship the King”

O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;  
our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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

**\* Prayer of adoration and the Lord's prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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

**Offertory hymn**

*"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"*

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of men,  
from the best bliss that earth imparts we turn unfilled to thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest those that on thee call;  
to them that seek thee thou art good, to them that find thee all in all.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
glad when thy gracious smile we see, blessed when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright;  
chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world thy holy light.

*text by Bernard of Clairvaux, ca. 1150; Red Mountain Music, 2003*

**\* Scripture reading from Luke 8:1-15**

*text printed in the bulletin*

Margot Kapic (9:30)

Jim Richter (11:00)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word**

**Sermon**

*"The Parable of the Four Soils"*

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

## Pastoral prayer

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

*Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord's Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.*

### Hymn of confession

"Depth of Mercy"

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy reaching even me?  
God, the Just, his wrath forbears; me, the chief of sinners, spares.  
So many times my heart has strayed from his kind and perfect ways,  
making clear my desp'rate need for his blood poured out for me.

Give me grace, Lord, let me own all the wrongs that I have done.  
Let me now my sins deplore, look to you and sin no more.  
There, for me, the Savior stands holding forth his wounded hands,  
scars which ever cry for me; once condemned but now set free.  
*text by Charles Wesley, 1740; music by Bob Kauflin, 1997*

### Silent prayers of confession

#### Assurance of God's pardoning grace

taken from Titus 3:4-7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

### Words of institution

#### Communion affirmation

Leader: O the unspeakable mysteries and treasures of mercy that are presented to us in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper! Here we have communion with God our Father who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

All: **Here we have communion with our blessed Redeemer, as crucified and glorified, and offered to us, as our quickening, preserving, strengthening Head.**

Leader: Here we have communion with the Holy Spirit, applying to our souls the benefits of redemption, drawing us to the Son, communicating light, life, and strength from him unto us, and increasing his graces in us.

**All: Here we have communion with the body of Christ, his sanctified people. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember the finished work of Christ, receive nourishment, and anticipate the glory to come. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*adapted from The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, vol. 10 and The New City Catechism Devotional: God's Truth for Our Hearts and Minds*

## Prayer of consecration

### Distribution of the elements

Songs for meditation

#### "I Boast No More"

No more, my God, I boast no more of all the duties I have done.  
I quit the hopes I held before, to trust the merits of thy Son.  
No more, my God, I boast no more.

Now, for the loss, I bear his name; what was my gain I count my loss.  
My former pride I call my shame and nail my glory to his cross.  
No more, my God, I boast no more.

Yes, and I must and will esteem all things but loss for Jesus' sake.  
O may my soul be found in him and of his righteousness partake!  
No more, my God, I boast no more.

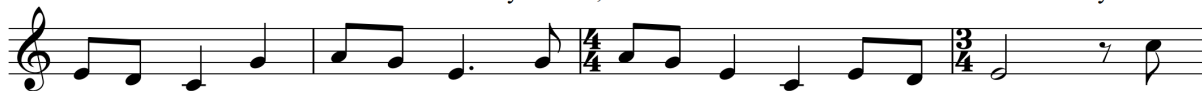
The best obedience of my hands dares not appear before thy throne;  
but faith can answer thy demands by pleading what my Lord has done.  
No more, my God, I boast no more.

*text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), music by Sandra McCracken, 2005*

"My Savior Left His Throne Above"



1. My Sa - vior left his throne a - bove, ex - changed his wealth for po - ver - ty. He  
 2. He felt the storms of hu - man pain, he felt temp - ta - tion's whel - ming seas. He  
 3. He kept his Fa - ther's ev - 'ry word; the law he fol - lowed per - fect - ly. So  
 4. When Je - sus left his heav'n - ly home, his face was set on Cal - va - ry. The



took my hate and gave his love; all this and more he did for me. Be -  
 felt the tears of sor - row's rain; all this and more he felt for me. Be -  
 all God's plea - sure he se - cured; all this and more he earned for me. Be -  
 steep - est hill he climbed a - lone; all this and more he did for me. Be -



cause he chose the low - ly way and bowed be - fore his Fa - ther's will, I  
 cause he knows my ev - 'ry strife and is ac - quain - ted with my grief, I  
 cause his right - eous life is mine and all his mer - its now I own, I  
 cause he died once for all time and bore the curse of death and hell, fi -



can with all as - sur - ance say my God is near and  
 can't be sha - ken in this life; the Friend of Sin - ners  
 am a child of God on high; I am a - dopt - ed,  
 nal for - give - ness here is mine; so it is fin - ished,



loves me still, my God is near and loves me still.  
 walks with me, the Friend of Sin - ners walks with me.  
 loved, and known, I am a - dopt - ed, loved, and known.  
 all is well, yes, it is fin - ished, all is well.

*text and music by Zach Hicks and Julie Anne Vargas © 2015 Unbudding Fig Music ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036*

**\* Prayer of thanksgiving**

**\* Hymn of praise**

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;  
 destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shalt be.  
 Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;  
 yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;  
human hearts and looks deceive me; thou art not, like them, untrue;  
O while thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
foes may hate and friends disown me; show thy face, and all is bright.

Soul, then know thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;  
joy to find in every station something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father's smiles are thine!  
Think that Jesus died to win thee; child of heav'n, canst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
heav'n's eternal days before me, God's own hand shall guide me there.  
Soon shall close my earthly mission, swift shall pass my pilgrim days;  
hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.  
*text by Henry F. Lyte, 1824, 1833; music by Bill Moore, 2001*

\* **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*

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**Musicians for this week:**

**Amy Barham** – vocalist  
**Ismael Bartolome** – violin  
**Carson Culbertson** – guitar  
**Xaris Emmett** – viola

**David Henry** – guitar, vocalist  
**Maria Rhodes** – vocalist  
**Jeremy Taylor** – piano

**The rosebud in the sanctuary** today is for the birth of Leonidas Ray Holland, born to Iro and John Holland on April 18.

## Luke 8:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup>and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, <sup>3</sup>and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

<sup>4</sup>And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, <sup>5</sup>"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'

<sup>11</sup>"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience."



## SERMON NOTES

“The Parable of the Four Soils”

*Luke 8:1-15*

1. The content of the parable: a familiar scene of a sower and his seed (vv. 4-8)
  
2. The purpose of the parables: to reveal spiritual truths to receptive hearts and to conceal spiritual truths from hardened hearts (vv. 9-10; Isaiah 6:9)
  
3. The meaning of the parable: God’s truth yields abundant harvest when it falls on fertile hearts. (vv. 11-15)
  - The sower: anyone who shares the Gospel message
  
  - The seed: the Word of God
  
  - The soil: there are four kinds of hearts in those who hear God’s Word.
    - ◇ The path: the hard, unreceptive heart (v. 12)
  
    - ◇ The rocky ground: the shallow, superficial heart (v. 13)
  
    - ◇ The thorny ground: the strangled heart (v. 14)
  
    - ◇ The good soil: the receptive heart (v. 15)

*Further Up, Further In,*  
Resources for  
Continued Study



## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOIN US TONIGHT FOR EVENING PRAYER** at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. We will commission Corley Compton for her upcoming short term missions trip to South Africa, and we'll also have a time of prayer for our supported missionaries.

**THE FULL SLATE OF OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR THE CLASS OF 2025** was elected by the congregation on April 24. They will be installed as officers in the morning services on Sunday, May 15.

**JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT** this Wednesday, May 4. Registration is via Realm and pick-up is in the porte-cochere. Please note that the registration deadline is Monday, May 2 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 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](mailto:joy@lmpc.org).

**WOMEN OF LMPC, JOIN US FOR SPRING FELLOWSHIP DAY *this 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.

**LOVE LOOKOUT IS HOSTING A BLOOD DRIVE AT LMPC** on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You may schedule an appointment at [bloodassurance.org/lmpc](http://bloodassurance.org/lmpc) or by calling Pam Nemeck at 423-834-2862; walk-ins will still be welcome. Please eat a good meal, drink additional water, avoid energy drinks, and bring your I.D. as we seek to love our neighbors by giving this precious resource.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP CLOSING PICNIC** at the Town Commons on May 11 at 5:30 p.m. Hot dogs and fellowship are on the menu. Please remember to register via Realm by Monday, May 9 so that we can plan accordingly. Last minute attendees are still welcome though.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mountainmen@lmpc.org).

**VIPS, JOIN US FOR A NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK!** All VIPs are invited to join us for a Chattanooga Lookouts baseball game at AT&T Field on May 25 at 6:30 p.m. We'll enjoy a ballpark picnic and private indoor/outdoor seating. Price is \$15 and includes the picnic and your game ticket. Reserve your spot online or contact the church office by Friday, May 13.

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/news](http://lmpc.org/news)*

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEER INFORMATION - TODAY 10:30 - 11:00 AM**

If you would like to know more about our various children's ministries and what it looks like to volunteer, please stop by the **Reception Room** today between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Find out more about Nursery, Elementary Sunday School, Wednesday Night Clubs, and Hedgehog Grove here at LMPC.

## TODAY AT LMPC

*Sunday, May 1*

9:30 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
9:30 a.m.	Sunday school for adults & children.....	various locations
10:30 a.m.	Elders are available to pray for your needs.....	Brian Salter's office
11:00 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
11:00 a.m.	Sunday school for adults, youth, & children.....	various locations
4:00 p.m.	Middle school small groups .....	JHYB
6:00 p.m.	Evening prayer with missionary prayer.....	chapel

*For more events this week, visit [lmpc.org/calendar](http://lmpc.org/calendar).*

### PILLAR AND GROUND - AN LMPC PODCAST

This new podcast series for the LMPC family is now live! 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.

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

Find it now on most podcast player apps (Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, etc.). 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.



### WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



### OUR MISSION

*Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.*

### CONTACT US

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Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services and in lieu of evening prayer on the third Sunday of every month.