



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 1, 2022 | **Sanctuary Service**

Order of Worship

Prelude

“From God Shall Naught Divide Me”
Johann Ludwig Krebs

Welcome and announcements

Brian Salter, lead pastor

Introit

“Amazing Grace!”
(text may be found in the hymnal #460)

Girls Bell Ensemble

* 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 7

“From All That Dwell below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise;
let the Redeemer’s name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
text by Isaac Watts, 1719; music by John Hatton, 1793, DUKE STREET

* **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

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!
text from Revelation 22, adapted by Paul O. Manz; music by Paul O. Manz, 1954

* **Gloria Patri 735**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* **Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

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

Brian Salter

¹Soon 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, ²and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

⁴And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵“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. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And 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.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he 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.’

¹¹“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The 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. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵As 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.”

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”

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministry

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)

Pastoral prayer

This morning we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. This celebration is a sacred time during which God’s people enjoy communion with him and unity with each other. We believe that the Lord’s Supper is meant for the body of Christ as a gathered, corporate reality and not merely for personal or individual edification. For this reason, the livestream is ending at the conclusion of the sermon and will not include the celebration of the sacrament.

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ

Girls Ensemble:

Catherine Compton

Beata Shivy

Deborah Kvale

Ruth Shivy

Joanna Kvale

Noel Warren

Bethany Oster

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

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.

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 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 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.

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

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.

