



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 11, 2022 | **Sanctuary Service**

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Oh, Come, Little Children”
arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and announcements

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Lighting the candle of joy

Advent meditation

“Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne”

Kingdom Kids

Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne, for soon the Child of Light will come.
Let ev’ry voice prepare a song to welcome Christ, the Promised One.

Let ev’ry hand reach out with love to greet this gift from God above.
Make ready now, the Savior comes, the Prince of Peace, the Promised One.

Solo: So let the flame of Advent glow, each candle shines that all may know
 the hope we need, so long foretold, will soon be here for us to hold.

Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne, for soon the Child of Light will come.
Let ev’ry voice prepare a song to welcome Christ, the Promised One.
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne.

*from the first stanza of “Hark, the Glad Sound” by Phillip Doddridge; additional lyrics and music by
Mark Patterson, 2013*

* Call to worship

based on Psalm 98 and Luke 1

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his
right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**All: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his
 righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his
 faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

Leader: Our souls glorify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

**All: The Mighty One has done great things for us—holy is his name.
 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to
 generation!**

* **Hymn of praise 215**, vv. 1, 2, 3

“While by the Sheep We Watched at Night”

While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain: How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today. *Refrain*

There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all. *Refrain*
German carol and traditional German melody, JUNGST

* **Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

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 203

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. *Refrain*
text by Charles Wesley, 1739; music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, MENDELSSOHN

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

Offertory

“Sing Noel”

Kingdom Kids

Shepherds, shepherds, hear the story: Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Rise and go to see his glory, leave your flock to welcome him!
Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born!

Angels, angels, heav’nly chorus, Christ has come to earth today!
Bright the star that shines before us, pointing clear to all the way!
Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born!

Wise men, wise men, treasure bringing to the manger bed afar,
joyful praises ever singing, follow now the guiding star.
Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born!
text and music by Natalie Sleeth

* 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 dedication and thanksgiving**

* **Scripture reading from Hebrews 1:6-9**

Chad Middlebrooks

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Jesus, King of Angels"

Brian Salter, lead pastor

What child is this? Jesus is the King of angels.

1. The angels worship the Son as his created servants. (vv. 6-7; Psalm 97:7, 104:4)
2. The Son is the righteous and eternal King. (vv. 8-9; Psalm 45:6-7)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 18**, vv. 1, 4

"You Holy Angels Bright"

You holy angels bright, who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme
too high does seem for mortal tongue.

Sing forth Jehovah's praise, you saints, that on him call!
Him magnify always, his holy churches all!
In him rejoice, and there proclaim
his holy name with sounding voice.

text based on Psalm 148, Richard Baxter, 1672; music by John Darwall, 1770, DARWALL

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

"Threefold Amen"

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – Director of Kingdom Kids II

Jennifer Mixon – Director of Kingdom Kids I

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Mary Margaret Scruggs – soloist

IN MEMORIAM

Ellen Melinda Thompson

November 30, 1944 – December 7, 2022

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

In the mid-19th century, German theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern was the first to weave evergreen boughs into a wagon wheel adorned with candles as a way for children to count the days until Christmas. Since that time, advent wreaths have grown in meaning and use as a devotional and liturgical tool for Christians to celebrate Advent. The advent wreaths we are using at LMPC are full of symbolic meaning: the circular shape reminds us of God's never-ending love; the evergreen branches point to God's promise of eternal life through his Son; the red holly berries signify Jesus' blood shed on the cross; and the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ himself remind us of the true Light of the World, whom the darkness can never overcome.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WILL HOLD A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY at the end of each worship service in the sanctuary and fellowship hall for two purposes. The first purpose is to hear a status update and call to action concerning the RENEW capital campaign. The second purpose is to vote on the slate of officer nominees for the class of 2026.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING on December 18 at 5:00 p.m. Email Margaret at margaret@lmpc.org.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS will be held January 20-22. We will meet Friday from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sunday during the Sunday school hour. One final session will be held during Sunday school on January 29. If you are an adult who wants to join the church, or you would like to learn about what we believe, this class is for you. Register on Realm Connect by January 10.

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

ADVENT 2022

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 11

4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 18

5:00 p.m. in the community

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

3:00, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. only