



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 18, 2022 | Fellowship Hall Service

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministry

* **Call to worship**

taken from Psalm 96

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

All: For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Leader: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

* **Hymn of praise**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow’rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Liturgy of St. James, 5th century; French melody, 17th century; arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams

* **Prayer of adoration**

Affirmation of faith

based on Colossians 1

Leader: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

All: For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Leader: And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

All: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Hymn of response

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right had on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

text by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; music by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Call to confession

based on Titus 2

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, a people eager to do what is good.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on 1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Corinthians 8:9

Leader: Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; for by his wounds we have been healed.

All: **For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

* Hymn of assurance

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Medieval Latin carol; German melody, 14th cent.

Lighting the candle of love

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

based on John 1:14 and 1 John 4:9-12

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

Offertory hymn

“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav’nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
text by Frank Houghton, 1894-1972; French carol melody, arr. Charles H. Kitson, 1930

* Scripture reading from Hebrews 1:10-14

Tabitha Kapic

¹⁰And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” ¹³And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“Jesus, the Eternal Ruler”

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. Jesus is the Creator, greater than his creation. (v. 10)
2. Jesus is the eternal One, greater than all that is impermanent. (vv. 11-12)
3. Jesus is the enemy defeater, greater than the angels he sends to serve his redeemed people. (vv. 13-14)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response**

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all, with one accord,
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
that hath made heav’n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
traditional English carol, 17th century

* **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**

Musicians for this week:

David Henry – guitar, vocals

David Kaufmann – bass

Hannah Lutz – viola

Mike McCracken – clarinet

Rebecca McCracken – vocals

Jeremy Taylor – piano

Amy Verwoerd – vocals

Fred Verwoerd – vocals

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.

ADVENT 2022

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

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Belva Bailey by Don Bailey, Sr., Laura and Don Bailey, Jr., and Lori and Kevin Chilton

Vera and Marion Barnes by Elizabeth and Stephen Barnes

Elizabeth (Betsy) Caulkins Bookout by Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins IV,
Caroline Caulkins Bentley, Anne and Trey Carr, Caroline, Catherine, & Margaret;
Ann Henley and Doug Perry and family; and Hugh, Elizabeth, and Peter

Donnie Brock by Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins IV

Mr. and Mrs. Winford Brock by Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins IV

Greg Brown by Katie and Don Morton

Kaky and Hugh Brown by Katie and Don Morton

Michael Brown by Katie and Don Morton

Hardwick Caldwell by Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins III by Wilford Caulkins IV and Caroline Caulkins Bentley

Atticus Bartholomew Centurion Doe by the Doe Family

Ernestelle and Melvin Durrett by Lisa and Joe Hailey

Konnie Erickson by Dave Erickson

Lynda Fray by the Dan Wykoff family and David Fray

Catherine Griswold by Stephen, Lindsey, Courtney, MJ, and Kristen

Julie and Bill Hailey by Lisa and Joe Hailey

Evelyn and Clarence Halvorson by Marni and Steve Halvorson

B. Daniel Harnsberger by his children and grandchildren

Don Lee Hartman by Lynn Hartman

Martha and Morton Kent by their sons and their families

Dick Lindeman by Charlotte Lindeman, his children, and grandchildren

Elaine and Robert Macdonald by Joyce and Herb Politano and family

Aaron Madaris by Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins IV

Gail Marshall by Lynn Hartman

The Very Rev. Norman and Tillie Ann Milbank by Marni and Steve Halvorson

Betty and L.D. Miller, Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Bowers

Robert C. Monroe by his family

Gary "Pop" Morris by Beth, McKinley, Anna-Blair, and Wright Self

Hal Morris by Linda Morris

Richard O'Ferrall by Ann Henley and Doug Perry, Ash Perry, and Della, CP, Kappy, and Hennie

Anne Platt by Anne and Trey Carr, Caroline, Catherine, and Margaret

Helen and Carmel Politano by Joyce and Herb Politano and family

Sara Rowland by Stephen, Lindsey, Courtney, MJ, and Kristen

Dr. William B. Roy by the Moldenhauers

Drake Smisson by the Smisson and Woodruff families

Ann and Norman Smith by Hollie and Don Kent and family

Clara Frances and W.L. Smith by Stephen, Lindsey, Courtney, MJ, and Kristen

Warren Gregory ("Gregg") Terry by Ann Henley and Doug Perry

Elsie Wildeboer by Beth Krabbendam

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Diane Morris by Beth, McKinley, Anna-Blair, and Wright Self

Our grandchildren by Carol and Mitch Mutter

Ms. Carla Roy by the Moldenhauers

Kendra and Brian Salter by Beth, McKinley, Anna-Blair, and Wright Self

Cathie and Ray Smith by Sloan, James, Rome, Davis, and Stella

The Zach Walley family by Anonymous

RESULTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON 12/11/22

We are glad to report that, after counting the ballots, we did have a quorum and the full slate of officer nominees was approved. On the same ballot, Robert Clark was elected as a new director to serve a four-year term on the board of LMPC, Inc. The members approved to commence officer training for the class of 2026 are listed below:

ELDER NOMINEES

David Caines
Tad Dacus
Tommy Gifford
Larry Goodman
Derek Halvorson
Don Morton
Doug Perry
Sam Smartt
Ron Thomas
Jack Webb

DEACON NOMINEES

Don Bailey, Jr.
Jay Brooks
Chuck Denham
Will Givens
Griffin Hatcliff
Carter Helm
Eddy Hilger
Paul Jacobs
Ross Shumate
Carter Young

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, there will be 11:00 a.m. services only, in both the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. There will be no nursery or Sunday School.

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, all regular services will resume, with nursery at 11:00 a.m. only and no Sunday school. There will be no New Year's Eve service.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC CLASS will be held January 20-22. Register on Realm Connect before January 10.

WE ARE EXTREMELY THANKFUL for your faithful giving this past year to both the general fund (regular church operations) and the RENEW campaign. However, we still need approximately \$800,000 in giving to ensure we can meet all our 2022 financial obligations. Please remember us in your year-end giving so that we might enter into 2023 financially strong.

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