



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 25, 2022 | **Sanctuary Service**

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Prelude

*“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
Edwin C. Johnson*

Welcome and announcements

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministry

Christmas introit

“Ukrainian Bell Carol”

Chancel Choir

Hark! Hear the song, joyful and strong, music so fair, filling the air.
Radiant the sound, heard all around, shatt’ring the night, bringing the light.
Seraphs sing, joybells ring, news of a birth throughout the earth.
Promise fulfilled, heaven revealed, all is made right this Christmas night.
Hope is reborn this Christmas morn. Spread the good news, Jesus is born.

Suddenly, angel voices are singing songs of good-will and peace to the earth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hear angels sing on Christmas night; tidings they bring: peace, love and light.
text by Mark Hayes; tune and original text by Mykola Leontovych; arr. Mark Hayes, 2017

* Call to worship

based on Isaiah 9

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

All: We praise the LORD Most High! For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

All: He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

* Hymn of praise 208

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin’s womb:
very God, begotten, not created; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
glory to God in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

*Latin hymn, attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751; music from John Francis Wade’s Cantus Diversi,
1751, ADESTE FIDELES*

* Prayer of adoration

* Affirmation of faith

the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call to confession

Proverbs 28:13 and Micah 7:18-19

Leader: He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

All: **Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.**

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”

Chancel Choir

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever;
for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever.

text from Latin hymn; translated and adapted by Theodore Baker, 1899; music from The Seven Last Words of Christ, by Théodore Dubois, 1867, ADORE THEE

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on Colossians 2:9-10, 13-15

In Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily, and we have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. When we were dead in our sins and in the uncircumcision of our sinful nature, God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

* Hymn of assurance 207

“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., IN DULCI JUBILO

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

Offertory

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born"

Chancel Choir

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

from "The Messiah," George Frederick Handel

*** 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 Matthew 1:18-25**

Aaron Tolson

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"The Birth of Jesus"
Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. **The Dilemma:** Joseph faces his fearful confusion. (vv. 18-19)
2. **The Defining Moment:** Joseph receives God's gracious revelation. (vv. 20-23)
3. **The Decision:** Joseph embraces humble faithfulness. (vv. 24-25)

BIG IDEA: God's revealing grace turns confused fearfulness into humble faithfulness.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 195

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*text based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719; music by George Frederick Handel, 1742, arr. Lowell
Mason, 1836, ANTIOCH*

* Benediction

* Congregational response

"Threefold Amen"

* Postlude

"Let Earth Receive Her King!"
Richard Elliott

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director
Joshua Knight – organ

Nate Oster – timpani
Joshua Wingard – percussion

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WILL MEET ON NEW YEAR'S DAY for regular Sunday services with communion; 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.

SAVE THE DATE for the Women's Winter Suppers on Thursday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. Please email caroline@lmpc.org if you are interested in hosting.

WE STILL NEED APPROXIMATELY \$600,000 in giving to ensure we can meet our 2022 financial obligations; thank you for your faithful giving.

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

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