



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 15, 2023 | **Fellowship Hall Service**

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

John Wingard, ruling elder

* Call to worship

based on Psalm 135

Leader: Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD, who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

All: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name. The LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession.

Leader: We know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

All: Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, through all generations. For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. Praise the LORD!

* Hymn of praise

“Across the Lands”

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

Refrain: You're the Author of creation;
you're the Lord of ev'ry man;
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry; with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered, that the guilty may go free! *Refrain*

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven, leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father, interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation, you are leading sinners home! *Refrain*
text and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music, LLC, ARR, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

* Prayer of adoration

Affirmation of the law: the first commandment

Leader: What is the first commandment?

All: The first commandment is: You shall have no other gods before me.

Leader: What does the first commandment require?

All: The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Leader: What does the first commandment forbid?

All: The first commandment forbids denying God or not worshiping and glorifying him as the true God and our God. It also forbids giving worship and glory, which he alone deserves, to anyone or anything else.

Leader: What are we specifically taught in the first commandment by the words "before me?"

All: The words "before me" in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees everything, notices and is very offended by the sin of having any other god.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 45-48

Call to confession

Micah 7:18-19

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.

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

Prayer of confession

Leader: O great God, you alone are worthy of our worship. Yet so often we exchange the truth for a lie and place created things above you in our hearts and lives.

All: Forgive us for the ways in which we take the good things you have made and make them ultimate. Give us fresh repentance and enliven us to see that our greatest idol is ourselves.

Leader: In you alone we are satisfied, yet we often pursue our own interests and desires rather than finding our satisfaction in you. We languish in the promotion and love of ourselves rather than rejoicing in the truth that you alone are our Creator and Redeemer.

All: We ask that you, Lord, would help us this day to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, for this is the first and greatest commandment. Guard us from idols and triumph over all that competes for our ultimate affection.

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.

* **Hymn of assurance**

“I Will Glory in My Redeemer”

I will glory in my Redeemer, whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails, and hung him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer, who crushed the power of sin and death,
my only Savior before the holy Judge: the Lamb who is my righteousness;
the Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer; my life he bought, my love he owns.
I have no longings for another; I'm satisfied in him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer, his faithfulness my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me, my feet are firm, held by his grace;
my feet are firm, held by his grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer, who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with loving-kindness; his triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer, who waits for me at gates of gold;
and when he calls me it will be paradise, his face forever to behold;
his face forever to behold.

text and music by Steve and Vikki Cook © 2001 Sovereign Grace Worship ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

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

Offertory hymn

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

Refrain: He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight; Christ will hold me fast;
precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. *Refrain*

For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last! *Refrain*

original text by Ada Habershon, 1906; alt. text and music by Matt Merker ©2013 Matthew Merker Music, ARP, UBP, CCLI Lic. #152036

¹And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.”

God said: ⁶“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷“You shall have no other gods before me.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“No Other Gods”

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. **The greatest commandment:** We are rightly commanded to exclusively worship the Lord.
2. **The most broken commandment:** We perpetually pursue idols that never satisfy.
3. **The only cure for our idolatrous hearts:** The only cure is the expulsive power of a new affection through the Gospel of Jesus.

“There are two ways in which a practical moralist may attempt to displace from the human heart its love of the world—either by a demonstration of the world’s vanity, so that the heart shall be prevailed upon simply to withdraw its regards from an object that is not worthy of it, or by setting forth another object, even God, as more worthy of its attachment, so that the heart shall be prevailed upon not to resign an old affection, which shall have nothing to succeed it, but to exchange an old affection for a new one. My purpose is to show that from the constitution of our nature, the former method is altogether incompetent and ineffectual, and that the latter method will alone suffice for the rescue and recovery of the heart from the wrong affections that domineer over it.” From Thomas Chalmers’s sermon entitled *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response**

“O Great God”

O great God of highest heav'n, occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme; conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain that resists your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me; make me yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear your voice,
did not know your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life, opened up your Word to me
through the Gospel of your Son, gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.

O great God of highest heav'n, glorify your name through me.

*text and music by Bob Kauflin © 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise, EMI Christian Music Publishing, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI
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* **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:

Eleanor Caines – vocals
Charley Crichton – bass
Anna Davis – flute
David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola
Olivia Ranier – vocals
Christina Sullivan – piano

MISSIONARY GUEST: JONATHAN, MTW

Jonathan will be joining us this morning in both the Fireside/Redeemer (9:30 a.m.) and Kingdom (11:00 a.m.) Sunday School classes.

Jonathan and Maggie serve with Mission to the World (MTW) in Asia. They moved to South Asia in 2010 to plant a church in a global city. Having pastored that church for several years, Jonathan is now the International Director for MTW, overseeing and establishing new ministries in the Asia-Pacific region. MTW desires to plant reformed and Presbyterian churches around Asia-Pacific among the unreached and least-reached peoples. Maggie helps to lead ministries of Parakaleo in Asia, a ministry that equips ministry wives to face the complex world of church-planting and pastoral ministry. Maggie and Jonathan have six daughters, ranging in age from three to fifteen.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON on Sunday, January 22 after morning worship services, at 12:30 p.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building. We will enjoy a time of fellowship and a selection of soups and salads before hearing from two very special VIPs who have already begun leaving valuable wisdom for future generations. There is no cost for this event, but seating is limited, so please RSVP by January 19 by registering on Realm Connect or calling the church office. *The VIP group is made up of mostly retired adults (ages 65+) from Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church and the community who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.*

MAKING DECISIONS AT THE END OF LIFE for ourselves and loved ones can often be challenging. Our Care for the Caregiver Group will have a special guest presentation by Bill Davis on this topic. Bill is an elder at LMPC, a professor at Covenant College, and author of the book, *Departing in Peace: Biblical Decision-Making at the End of Life*. No prior registration is required; please join us from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Reception Room on Tuesday, January 24.

JOIN OUR WOMEN'S WINTER SUPPERS on Thursday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m., taking place in individual homes, for the purpose of connecting with other women. Invite your friends and neighbors; please register on Realm Connect. If you are interested in hosting one of our Winter Suppers, please email Caroline Scruggs, caroline@lmpc.org.

ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS are invited to join us for lunch on Sunday, January 29 at 12:15 p.m. in the Jane Harris Youth Building.

THE GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP will meet this spring on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Reception Room from February 2 through May 4. Find comfort and support alongside others. Register on Realm Connect for \$25, which includes the workbook. Contact Ed Salter with questions at edwardsalter815@gmail.com.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE will be held on Tuesday evenings from February 14 until March 28, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Whether you are newlyweds or have been married many years, the Marriage Course can help you strengthen your communication and grow your relationship. Each couple will sit at their own table and interact only with each other during this video course. The cost is \$50 and dessert will be provided. Register on Realm Connect by Sunday, February 12.

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

LMPC 2023 BUDGET

We give thanks that God used you to generously provide all the ministry and operational needs of LMPC in 2022. If you would like to pledge for 2023 you may do so by either emailing pledge@lmpc.org or going to your account in Realm Connect.

SET UP YOUR SERVING PROFILE ON REALM CONNECT

Click on "Serving" on the left-hand menu if you are on a web browser, or click "More" if you are on your app. From there, click on "Select Skills and Interests" to make your selections. Please note that filling in your skills and interests does not commit you to anything.

Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities!

If you don't have a Realm Connect account, please contact onrealm@lmpc.org to request one.