



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 19, 2023 | **Sanctuary Service**



And all ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*text by Francis of Assisi, 1225; German tune, 1623, LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

### \* Prayer of adoration

#### Affirmation of the law: the sixth commandment

Leader: What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

**All: I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.**

Leader: Does this commandment refer only to murder?

**All: By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.**

Leader: Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

**All: No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.**

*The Heidelberg Catechism, questions 105-107*

## 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, as 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.

## Prayer of confession

Leader: Father God, giver of all life, you spoke life into us. You rescued our lives through your precious son, Jesus, and you breathed life into us with your mighty Spirit. And yet, through our sinful hearts and actions, we bring death.

**All: Forgive us for too often viewing the people around us as obstacles or vehicles, instead of human beings to be loved. Forgive us for breathing hate and discord from our lips.**

Leader: Grant us a fervent longing to bring life to our world and relationships. Empower us to cherish life and to seek it with all of our hearts.

**All: We repent of how deeply we value ourselves and our own comfort at the cost of others. Enable us to live lives shaped by your Son, Jesus, who died so that we could live.**

## Silent prayers of confession

### Choral prayer

“Merciful Father”

Chancel Choir

Merciful Father, O Lord hear us;  
hear our prayer, hear our prayer. Amen.  
*arr. Ludwig van Beethoven*

## Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

based on 2 Corinthians 5 and Zephaniah 3

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Therefore, be glad and rejoice! For the LORD has taken away our punishment.  
The LORD our God is with us, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in us, he will quiet us with his love, he will rejoice over us with singing.

\* **Hymn of assurance 498**, vv. 1, 2, 5

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!  
Jesus! lover of my soul;  
friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
he, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Refrain:* Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness!  
Let me hide myself in him;  
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him,  
more than all in him I find;  
he hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*

*text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL*

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

**Offertory**

“Non Nobis Domine”

Chancel Choir

Non nobis, Domine, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.  
*Not unto us, O Lord, but to your name give glory!*  
*text from Psalm 115:1; music by Patrick Doyle*

\* **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**

<sup>1</sup>And 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: <sup>6</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>7</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>8</sup>"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>11</sup>"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>12</sup>"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

<sup>16</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>17</sup>"You shall not murder."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word**

#### **Sermon**

"The Sixth Commandment: Don't Murder"

Wil Nettleton, pastor of mission & worship

1. The rationale behind the commandment
  - Since we are uniquely created in God's image, we are accountable to him for how we treat human life! (Genesis 1:26, 9:5-6)
2. The meaning of the commandment
  - Negatively: We are not to unlawfully or immorally take human life.
  - Positively: We are to protect and cherish all human life.

3. Jesus' corrective of our shallow understanding
  - Murder flows from murderous hearts. ( Matthew 5:21-22)
4. The hope of the Gospel for all who break this commandment

### Pastoral prayer

\* **Hymn of response 523**, vv. 1, 2, 4

“My Hope Is in the Lord”

My hope is in the Lord who gave himself for me,  
and paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.

*Refrain:* For me he died, for me he lives,  
and everlasting life and light he freely gives.

No merit of my own his anger to suppress,  
my only hope is found in Jesus' righteousness. *Refrain*

His grace has planned it all, 'tis mine but to believe,  
and recognize his work of love and Christ receive. *Refrain*  
*text and music by Norman Clayton, 1945, WAKEFIELD*

\* **Benediction**

\* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

\* **Postlude**

Sonata No. 4, I. Allegro con brio  
*Felix Mendelssohn*

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### Musicians for this week:

**William Darby** – soloist  
**Joy Gibbons** – director

**Joshua Knight** – organ

**Celebrating the baptisms** of Andrew Miller Ellis and Elizabeth Marie Ellis at the 9:30 service in the fellowship hall today are their parents, Sarah and Mark Ellis, and their grandparents, Nancy and Chris Stowell and Melinda and Eric Ellis.

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOIN US FOR EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE** today in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided.

**VBS ON HOLD THIS SUMMER AT LMPC.** This is the time of year when we typically publish VBS dates and themes for the upcoming summer. But this year our church spaces look very different. Due to the limited access and safety concerns during the restoration and renewal of our building, LMPC will not offer a VBS program in 2023. We look forward to the rest of the ministry year, as we welcome our new children's ministry director, Brennan Griffin, in June.

**A DOMESTIC ABUSE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN THREE SESSIONS,** February 24-26, presented by Darby Strickland. For more information on each session, visit [lmpc.org/domestic-abuse-seminar](http://lmpc.org/domestic-abuse-seminar).

**THE ANNUAL COMMUNICANTS CLASS** will be held March 3-5 for youth in grades 6-12 interested in joining LMPC. Email Margaret Compton at [margaret@lmpc.org](mailto:margaret@lmpc.org) for more information and to sign up; please include the student's name, grade, and age. The deadline to register is February 24.

**WOMEN'S WINTER BOOK CLUBS** will be held at various locations on Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Choose your book and register on Realm Connect. Books include: *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller, *Once Upon a Wardrobe* by Patti Callahan, and *Are My Kids on Track?* by Sissy Goff, David Thomas, and Melissa Trevathan.

**MEN, MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for "Shoulder to Shoulder: A Mountain Men Retreat." This in-town retreat will take place March 10 and 11. You will not want to miss this opportunity to grow in the grace of Jesus Christ, deepen connection and friendship with other men, and experience refreshment. Enjoy sessions Friday night and Saturday morning, with optional fellowship activities Saturday afternoon. Please register on Realm Connect by March 3 for \$45, which includes Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast. Speaker: Jim Coffield, Director of Adult Ministries and Counseling at Christ Covenant Church, Knoxville.

**BY ALL MEANS: REACHING THE LOST IN THE 21ST CENTURY** Join us for the 2023 World Missions Conference as we explore missional themes such as Church Planting in the Post-Christian West, Scripture Engagement, Creative Access, and Empowering Nationals. Events available for all ages; please mark your calendars for March 15-19 and plan to attend this year's conference!

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/news](http://lmpc.org/news).*



*Conference schedule*



## **TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF COLLECTION**

In response to the recent earthquake's devastation, the LMPC World Missions Committee has sent a gift of \$10,000 toward immediate relief efforts in the region. Our funds are being distributed through partner agencies and nationals with whom we have longstanding relationships.

In addition, LMPC will begin a church-wide collection on Sunday, February 19 for further relief efforts, with the World Missions Committee prepared to match congregational donations up to \$10,000.

To give, please drop your monetary donation into the designated container in the fellowship hall lobby. If you prefer to give by check, indicate "Turkey/Syria Relief" on the memo line.

## **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" in your mobile 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](mailto:onrealm@lmpc.org) to request one.