



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 14, 2023 | Fellowship Hall Service

* *Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Welcome and greetings

John Plating, ruling elder

* **Call to worship**

based on Ephesians 1:3-18

Leader: All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

All: You chose us, before the creation of the world, to be your people, holy and blameless in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins.

Leader: You have made known to us the mystery of your will, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

All: All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

* **Hymn of praise**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

text by Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; music traditional Welsh hymn melody

* **Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

taken from Colossians 3

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on 1 Peter 2

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were like sheep going astray, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

* Hymn of assurance

"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

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,
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Sacrament of baptism

KK and Austin Ledbetter bringing Parker Dean Ledbetter

* Scripture reading from Deuteronomy 7:7-11

Dottie Paden

⁷“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face.

¹¹“You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Chosen, but Not Choice"

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. The rationale behind God's choice (vv. 7-8)
 - It has nothing to do with Israel's qualifications. (v. 7)
 - He loves because he loves. (v. 8)
2. The character behind God's choice (vv. 9-10)
 - He is faithful to a thousand generations of those who love him. (v. 9)
 - He repays those who hate him. (v. 10)
3. The right response to God's choice (v. 11)
 - God's gracious choice and loving character motivate us toward obedience.

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:
he has washed us with his blood (3x), he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
he has washed us with his blood (3x), he presents our souls to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
when, through grace, in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
he who washed us with his blood (3x) has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
"Thou hast washed us with thy blood (3x); thou art worthy, Lamb of God!"
text by John Newton, 1774; music by Laura Taylor, 2001

* 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:

Charley Crichton – bass

Anna Davis – flute

David Henry – guitar, vocals

Hannah Lutz – viola

John Reeder – piano

Amy Verwoerd – vocals

Fred Verwoerd – vocals

Celebrating the baptism of Parker Dean Ledbetter at the 9:30 service in the fellowship hall today are his parents, KK and Austin Ledbetter, and his grandparents, Brenda and Paul Payne and Kirsten and Phil Ledbetter.

Celebrating the baptism of Martha Joy Holstege at the 9:30 service in the sanctuary today are her parents, Katie and Corey Holstege, and her grandparents, Carrie and Bruce Holstege, and her great-grandmother, Jane Cook.

The rosebud today is for the birth of Tilly James Cheek, born to Nellie and AJ Cheek on May 3.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME Margaret Lowery to the LMPC staff as our new director of operations & finance. Margaret was raised on Lookout Mountain and moved back in 2018. She and her husband, Grayson, are members of LMPC and have two daughters, Poppy and Jane. Margaret graduated from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business with a degree in marketing and has experience in investment management, financial reporting, and human resources. She considers it a huge privilege to raise her family here and now serve as part of the LMPC team, and we are thankful to God for answering our prayers in providing such a great fit. Margaret will join us full-time in mid-July.

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES ARE IN SEARCH OF a six-person vehicle to borrow from June 16 to July 11. Can you help? Contact Stephanie Young in the Missions Office, stephanie@lmpc.org.

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER KICKOFF SOCIAL for young adults, ages 23-40, on Saturday, May 27 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Oddstory, 1604 Central Ave, Chattanooga. We'll enjoy games, food, and fellowship. Bring your kids! Food and drinks available for purchase.

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES: Consider joining one of our sanctuary ensembles this summer! A Men's Ensemble will sing on June 4, 11, and 18 (rehearsal: June 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.); a Women's Ensemble will sing on June 25, July 2, and July 9 (rehearsal: June 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). No Wednesday rehearsals. Please register on Realm Connect. Questions? Email joy@lmpc.org.

SAVE THESE DATES for women's summer events:

- Wednesday Morning Bible Study: June 7, 14, 21, 28 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Topic: fear & anxiety. Nursery provided; lessons and activities for PreK - 5th grade.
- Summer Suppers: June 15 & July 13, 6:00 p.m.
- Summer Book Clubs: June 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Popsicles on the Playground: June 2 & July 7, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

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