

May 4, 2025

Worship | 8:15 and 11 am

Livestream | 11 am



# LEXINGTON

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For God's glory, we are making disciples of Jesus as we worship, love, and serve.

# WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We invite you to experience the meaning of the Gospel through this service, which reflects both ancient and modern elements of Christian worship. When we gather as a worshipping community, we enter into a dialogue with the living God. God calls us into worship, we rejoice in the hope of the Gospel, confess our sins, lament the brokenness of our world, give our offerings, and hear God's Word read and preached. We hope that by worshipping with us, you will experience joy and hope from a community of people who love Jesus.

At Lexington Presbyterian Church, for God's glory, we are making disciples of Jesus as we worship, love, and serve.

Complete our Connect Card at [lexpreschurch.com/connect](http://lexpreschurch.com/connect) to join us on mission!

General inquiries: [hello@lexpreschurch.com](mailto:hello@lexpreschurch.com)

# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

\* Congregation, please stand if able

Prelude

## PRAISE

**Updates** | Following Christ Together

\* **Call to Worship** | From Revelation 4 and 5

*Leader: And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, to the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

**All: “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.”**

*Leader: And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

All: And they sang a new song, saying,  
 “Worthy are you to take the scroll  
 and to open its seals,  
 for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
 from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
 so and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
 and they shall reign on the earth.”

\* Jesus, I Come

1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row and night, Je - sus, I come;  
 2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come;  
 3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come;  
 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come;

7  
 Je - sus, I come; — In - to Thy free - dom, glad - ness and light  
 Je - sus, I come; — In - to the glo - rious gain of Thy cross,  
 Je - sus, I come; — In - to Thy bless - ed will to a - bide,  
 13 Je - sus, I come; — In - to the joy and light of Thy home,

20  
 Je - sus, I come to Thee. — Out of my sick - ness in - to Thy  
 Je - sus, I come to Thee. — Out of earth's sor - rows in - to Thy  
 Je - sus, I come to Thee. — Out of my - self to dwell in Thy  
 27 Je - sus, I come to Thee. — Out of the depths of ru - in un -

health, Out of my want - ing and in - to Thy wealth, Out of my sin — and  
 balm, Out of life's storms — and in - to Thy calm, Out of dis - tress in - to  
 love, Out of de - spair in - to rap - tures a - bove, Up - ward for - ev - er on  
 27 told, In - to the peace of Thy shel - ter - ing fold, Ev - er Thy glo - rious

in - to Thy - self, Je - sus, I come to Thee. —  
 jub - i - lant psalm, Je - sus, I come to Thee. —  
 wings like a dove, Je - sus, I come to Thee. —  
 face to be - hold, Je - sus, I come to Thee. —

Words: William Sleeper 1887  
 Music: Greg Thompson 2000

## \* Prayer of Invocation

### \* Scripture Reading | 1 Peter 4:12-19 | Pew Bible p. 1,016

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

# My Help, My God-Psalm 42

1. Why are you so full of heaviness Why are you disquieted with-  
 2. Deep goes un-to deep like ocean waves All your floods and rapids on me  
 3. Ya - weh grants His kind-ness in the day Through the night His song it is that

4  
 in break Oh my soul Oh my soul As the deer longs for the wa - ter brooks  
 stays Oh my soul Oh my soul I will say un - to my God, my strength  
 Oh my soul Oh my soul (to chorus)

9  
 So my soul, it longs and thirsts for you Oh my God long Oh my God—  
 How it is you have for - got - ten me Oh how long Oh how long—

13  
 Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him

15  
 Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him

17  
 Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him, my help, my God.

Words and music: Sandra McCracken, 2015 (based on Psalm 42)

# RENEWAL

## Call to Confession | Psalm 32:5

*Leader: I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

## Corporate Confession of Sin | From the Book of Common Worship

All: Almighty God,  
who freely pardons all who repent and who turn to You,  
now fulfill in our contrite hearts the promises of Your redeeming grace.  
Hear our cries of repentance and confession.  
Cleanse us from all unrighteousness,  
and restore unto us the joy of our salvation.  
Thank for the blood of Jesus that washes us from all our sins.  
Fill us with the goodness and gratitude of the Holy Spirit,  
and help us to walk by faith, and not by sight.  
We ask this in the blessed name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus, Amen.

## Silent Confession

\* **Words of Comfort** | John 11:25-26

*Leader: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die..."*

\* **Passing of the Peace**

*Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.*

*All: And also with you.*

# Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor



1. Christ, the sure and stead-y an - chor, in the fu - ry of the storm;  
2. Christ, the sure and stead-y an - chor, while the tem - pest rag - es on.  
3. Christ, the sure and stead-y an - chor, thru the floods of un - be - lief.  
4. Christ, the sure and stead-y an - chor, as we face the wave of death.



when the winds of doubt blow thru me and my sails have all been torn.  
When temp - ta - tion claims the bat - tle and it seems the night has won,  
Hope - less some - how, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry!  
When these trials give way to glo - ry, as we draw our fi - nal breath,



In the suf - fring, in the sor - row, when my sink - ing hopes are few,  
deep - er still then goes the an - chor, tho' I just - ly stand ac - cused.  
This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see His love for - ev - er proved.  
we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be - hind and life se - cure.  
(5.) *Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true.*



I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
And the calm will be the bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.  
*We will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.*

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell  
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## Friendship Register

Kindly remember to give your neighbor the Friendship Register. Once it reaches the end of the pew, then please pass it back. Making acquaintances with guests and fostering friendships within the larger church family is the goal of this register. Starting from the middle aisle, the register is located at the head of each pew. Please, make sure to write your name legibly.

## Worship Through Giving

The offering is a way for members and friends of Lexington Presbyterian to present the substance of their whole lives to God. Please feel no pressure to give.

Ways to give:

- You may use the offering plates.
- Go to “Giving” on your Church Center mobile app or [lexpres.churchcenter.com](http://lexpres.churchcenter.com).
- Text2Give: text any dollar amount to 84321.

# Jesus, Strong and Kind | [8:15 a.m. only]

1. Je - sus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.  
2. Je - sus said if I am weak, I should come to him.  
3. Je - sus said that if I fear, I should come to him.  
4. Je - sus said if I am lost, he will come to me.

5  
No one else can sat - is - fy, I should come to him. [to verse 2]  
No one else can be my strength, I should come to him. }  
No one else can be my shield, I should come to him. } For the  
And he showed me on that cross, he will come to me.

9  
Lord is good and faith - ful. He will keep us day and night. We can

13  
al - ways run to Je - sus. Je - sus, strong and kind.

Words and Music by Colin Buchanan, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, and Rich Thompson

CCLI Song # 7139992

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## Find Us Faithful | Choir Anthem [11 a.m. only]

Faithful...faithful...

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road  
And those who've gone before us line the way  
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary  
Their lives, a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses  
Let us run the race, not only for the prize  
But as those who've gone before us  
Let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness  
Passed on through godly lives

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey  
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone  
And our children sift through all we've left behind  
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover  
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey  
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful

Faithful...faithful...faithful...

Lord, find us faithful.

### \* The Doxology

Musical score for 'The Doxology' in G major and common time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.' The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining two lines. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him all crea-tures here be - low; praise

5  
him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709  
Music: Louis Bergeois, 1551

### \* Offertory Prayer

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Corporate Prayer**

**Children's Sermon** | "Faithfulness and the Crown of Life"

**Missions Report** | Wayne and Amy Newsome, our missionaries to Japan

**\* Scripture Reading** | Revelation 2:8-11 | p. 1,028

<sup>8</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

<sup>9</sup> "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

**Communion Homily | Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church**

**2. Smyrna: A Message to a Rich Church**

**Rev. Dr. Curt McDaniel**

## Communion Homily Notes

Halima<sup>1</sup> grew up as a refugee in a country neighboring Somalia, her homeland. Her family was assisted by numerous aid groups over the years. When a pastor who had been sharing the gospel picked them up one Sunday morning and took them to a building with a fluorescent cross on it, she thought they were going to a Red Cross center. Once inside, the pastor's message touched her heart. Though Halima had limited knowledge of the local language, she said God helped her understand everything the pastor said. "I never heard such a story in the Quran or anywhere," she said. "I was the first Somali woman to accept Christ in that church." Halima's husband, Bekele, a communist and former army colonel, also came to know Christ that day; however, it was not long before her Muslim family discovered her faith.

After responding to the pastor's message, Halima and Bekele remained at the church for several days to receive instruction in the basics of the Christian faith. Before long, she was telling others about Christ. Her extended Muslim family was shocked by her conversion and how it changed her. When she visited the family home, her brother attacked her for sharing the gospel with his daughter. He even fired a handgun at Halima, but she escaped through a window. "I refused [to return to Islam] and stood firm in my faith," she said.

In the year 2000, Halima and Bekele were invited to attend a training course for Christian leaders in Nigeria. When they arrived at the airport for their flight, however, Halima was denied permission to travel. Despite their protests, Bekele had to go without her. Then, two days later, Halima received terrible news. Shortly after takeoff from a layover in Ivory Coast, the airplane on which Bekele was traveling plunged into the Atlantic Ocean, killing him and 168 others onboard. "It was a very difficult time," she said. "Not even a single person from my family came to comfort me when my husband died. Because I rejected Allah, Allah killed my husband; that is what they said." While her Muslim family expected her to abandon the Christian faith after such an agonizing loss, Halima actually drew closer to Christ. "The Holy Spirit helped me and comforted me," she said.

Following Bekele's death, Halima began to write and record worship music. Eventually, she compiled her Somali worship songs into an album, something unique in a culture where only 1% are Christians. When her family heard her music, they considered it blasphemous, and one of her brothers arranged for some Muslim friends to assault her. As she was leaving church one day, two men attacked her. Fortunately, a nearby police officer saw the attack and intervened. In the morning, Halima made breakfast and took it to the station, where a senior officer told her the attackers would spend at least six years in prison. "I fell

down at his feet and asked him to release them,” she said. Eventually, the officer agreed and had her sign a document consenting to their release. After signing the paper, she gave the breakfast to the two attackers and left. Nine months later, while visiting the same church near where she had been attacked, Halima heard someone call her name. She was startled to see one of her own attackers.

“Halima,” he said, “I don’t want to beat you. Today I came for a different reason.” He then told her that he had struggled to sleep for six weeks following his release from jail ... until finally placing his faith in the same true God that Halima followed. “I, myself, accepted Christ,” he told her, “and now my village is saved!”

Today Halima proclaims the gospel among the thousands of displaced Somalis in East Africa. “I think clinging to the Lord is the best thing to survive,” she said. “I don’t consider myself a widow now; I believe that Jesus is with me.” As Halima shares her songs and stories of survival with Somalis in East Africa, she is a living testament to God’s goodness even in the most difficult of circumstances.

According to Open Doors International, more than 380 million Christians worldwide are experiencing high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith, and this translates to a ratio of 1 to 7 worldwide, most especially 1 to 5 in Africa and 2 to 5 in Asia.<sup>2</sup> Added to this statistic are the numerous shootings seen in the last 25 years in churches and schools throughout our land, one striking very close to home for us not only in Charleston, SC, on June 17, 2015, but also one of our sister congregations, Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) and The Covenant School in Nashville, on March 27, 2023.<sup>3</sup> What does it tell us? It reveals that *the testimony of Jesus Christ from His church and among His people is provoking savage and brutal attacks*. I, along with other Christian leaders throughout our country, believe this will only get worse. In many respects, this is to be expected as we move through history towards the end of time. The Scriptures speak of this reality repeatedly. Jesus told His disciples that they would be persecuted (Matthew 24:9-13, John 15:20-21). Paul told Timothy that all who live in Christ will face persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Peter told his readers not to show surprise at their time of painful trial (1 Peter 4:12). If you follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, likely you will face trials, intimidation, rebuke, and persecution. You need to be ready to face suffering, persecution, and even death.

So, in the wake of all these events—shootings, court trials, physical and verbal abuse, and discrimination—we turn our attention today to a church that experienced tremendous persecution: the church at Smyrna. The 2nd of the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3 tells us about their trials and God’s rewards to those who persevere. These words were not

just for them. They are for us as well, as they point to a forward fulfillment.

Let us understand something about Smyrna and its surroundings. It was approximately 35 miles north of Ephesus on the western shore of the Aegean Sea, and next to Ephesus was one of the most significant export cities in the Mediterranean region. It was a city of great wealth, beauty, and culture. Within her confines was a large stadium, a public library, and the largest theater in all of Asia. It claimed to be the birthplace of Homer, the beloved Greek poet.<sup>4</sup> It was famous for its “Street of Gold,” a picturesque road that wrapped itself around Mt. Pagus, a mountain that ascended over 500 feet from the harbor. At either end of this famous street were 2 temples dedicated to mythological gods. In NT times, the population could have reached 200,000, and most historians speak of its beauty and size with words of great eloquence.<sup>5</sup> It had close ties with Greek mythology and Roman culture, building more than one temple to honor the Roman cult,<sup>6</sup> and combined with a large oppressing Jewish population residing there,<sup>7</sup> you have a potent prescription for difficulty and hardship if you profess the name of Christ in your life: “Indeed, the imperial cult permeated virtually every aspect of city and often even village life in Asia Minor, so that individuals could aspire to economic prosperity and greater social standing only by participating to some degree in the Roman cult.”<sup>8</sup>

The most famous martyr in the early church was the noted Father Polycarp, a direct disciple of John, the beloved disciple of Jesus. Polycarp refused to acknowledge Caesar as Lord, and he spoke out against emperor worship, something Domitian (AD 81-96 reign) demanded.<sup>9</sup> Because of his testimony, he was burned at the stake, and received the famous title, “The Twelfth Martyr in Smyrna.”<sup>10</sup> Keep in mind that the apostle John was also persecuted by Domitian, banished to exile on Patmos in the early AD 90s.

We believe the church in Smyrna was established sometime during Paul’s third missionary journey while he was going to or in Ephesus. Acts 19:26 gives this allusion,<sup>11</sup> and it tells us that in Paul’s time, subsequently in John’s later life, and then with Polycarp into the 2nd Century, Christianity received hostile opposition and hate from the Jews, the Greeks, and from Roman loyalists in that day. What do we see in this letter for us today?

Remember the pattern and symmetry seen in these letters that we saw last time. There are 5 major components:

- *Picture:* A portion of the portrait of Christ that appeared in chapter 1.
- *Proclamation:* Christ’s commendation to them.
- *Problem:* What is wrong with the church from Christ’s standpoint.

- *Plea*: Exhortation to repent or to stay strong.
- *Promise*: The assurance of Christ's blessing if they persevere.

### Elements in the Letter to the Church in Smyrna

1. ***The Picture***: “The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life” (v.8). The portrait of the living, sovereign Christ is what these suffering Christians needed to hear. He is the One who knows the end from the beginning. The reigning, resurrected Christ is the One they should look to in their times of trial and heartache. Because He suffered ridicule, persecution, trial, and agony, they know that they can go through it too under His watchful eye.
2. ***The Proclamation***: Christ has 3 specific things to say to them in v.9:
  - a. *He knows their afflictions and poverty*. Many of these believers were not only verbally and physically abused, but many were also considered social outcasts, making it extremely hard for them to reach a sustainable way of living. Most, if not all, lived at or below poverty level.
  - b. *He tells them they are rich in Him, though poor in the world*. Their poverty was only materialistic. Spiritually, their faith was alive, healthy, and growing. This compares with what the apostle James says in 2:5, “Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him?” Those who are rich in faith have learned the secret of spiritual blessings in life. They seek God's kingdom and righteousness first (Matthew 6:33).
  - c. *He knows those who are truly His*. Jesus knew who His people really were. They may claim to be Jews, but that was only by blood. The real Jews are those who are born spiritually from the heart (see Romans 2:28-29). Jesus talked about this in His earthly ministry towards the Pharisees in John 8:31-47. You are a true “Jew” if you walk by faith.
3. ***NOTE***: There was no problem mentioned. Evidently their lives and hearts received Christ's commendation.
4. ***The Plea***: Christ tells them two things in v.10:
  - a. *Do not be afraid*. Tough times were ahead of them. Christ acknowledges that they will suffer. But His words bring comfort. He will be with them during this time of trial. Testing and tribulation are a repetitious theme that permeates the Bible. The reference of “ten days” alludes to Daniel 1:12-15.

- b. *Be faithful.* Some of them would face imprisonment for their faith. Some would face the sword of execution and death. Christ knows what awaits them and encourages them to remain true to Him in life.
5. *If they remain true and faithful, **the Promise** is seen in vv. 10-11.* It is twofold:
- a. *They will receive the crown of life.* James mentions this crown of life in James 1:12, “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.” Several times in the Bible, the mention of crowns is made to show rewards (crown of life: James 1:12, Revelation 2:10; crown of righteousness: 2 Timothy 4:8; crown of glory: 1 Peter 5:4). In reference to Revelation 2, this crown resembles more of a garland or a wreath, something similar to a headdress that an athlete would wear in the Olympic-type games on the victor’s pedestal. This imagery of a victor’s crown would register with believers in Smyrna, as the city was known for their athletic games and competitions,<sup>12</sup> rivaling Athens, Corinth, Olympia, Delphi, and Sparta. This reward was given to those who persevere.
- b. *They will not face the second death.* 2:11 states, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.” The “second death” is the judgment of the wicked, portrayed clearly in Revelation 21:8 with the Lake of Burning Sulfur. Those who are a part of the redeemed company of Christ have no part in this second death. This promise reassured these believers that their time of trial was minimal compared to the time in eternity they would enjoy as they received their inheritance for living a life of faith, surrender, and love for the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

**Personal Application:** Big Takeaways from the Letter to the Church in Smyrna:

- The Sovereign Lord knows your trials, pain, and heartache. Realize that even though you are suffering and you may think that you are poor, know that you are RICH! Be faithful and true to the end, and you will receive the crown God has prepared for you.
- Take heart and know that Christ understands your situation and sympathizes with your plight. Today, Jesus is your biggest cheerleader: “Do not be afraid!” “Be Faithful to Me!” “It is Only for a Short Time!” “Your Reward is Coming!”
- Despite your trials and suffering, stay faithful. Look how RICH you are and will be from all this!

## Reflection:

“The account of the martyrdom of Polycarp, bishop of the church at Smyrna in the mid-second century, gives us a glimpse into the kind of threats that may have challenged the faith of that church in earlier years. He was told by the Roman governor that he would be executed if he did not give a public, token acknowledgement to Caesar as Lord. He died for his faith. Some have suggested that Polycarp himself may have been one of the readers of this letter, since he became bishop of Smyrna in AD 115, and that he was particularly encouraged by its message before his death.”<sup>13</sup>

## Study and Discussion Questions:

- Review the opening story of Halima and discuss its pertinence. What can we learn from this story?
- Discuss the prominence of persecution today, reviewing the furnished statistics. What does this tell us?
- Review the background of Smyrna. What kind of city was it? Is there a modern equivalent?
- Review and discuss each element in the Letter to Smyrna. What practical lessons can we learn? What comfort can you, as a believer, draw from the knowledge of Christ’s promises to those who face persecution?

## Footnotes:

1. Voice of the Martyrs, “Facing Opposition.” April 3, 2025 email article: [https://www.persecution.com/2025-04-halima/?\\_source\\_code=EM25D2](https://www.persecution.com/2025-04-halima/?_source_code=EM25D2).
2. Open Doors International website and statistics: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>
3. <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/davidson/2025/03/27/nashville-covenant-school-shooting-anniversary-two-years/82674463007/>
4. Robert Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Ed. F.F. Bruce. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1977, 91.
5. G.K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999, 239-245.
6. Tacitus, *The Annals*, IV:55-56.  
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0078%3Ab ook%3D4%3Achapter%3D55>.

7. Acts 13:45, 50; 14:2-7, 19; 17:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16. For church history sources, see The Martyrdom of Polycarp 12:1-2, 13:1: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/martyrdompolycarp-lightfoot.html> and Tertullian, Scorpiace 10: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian18.html>.
8. Beale, 240.
9. For an excellent discussion on the prominence of the Roman imperial cult in the latter part of the First-Century, please see S.R.F. Price, *Rituals and Power: The Roman Imperial Cult in Asia Minor*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984, 78-121, 243-248.
10. Mounce, 91.
11. In addition, the hieromartyr (a priest or clergyman who dies for the Faith while serving the church) Pionius wrote in his *Life of Polycarp* if, that Paul visited Smyrna on his journey to Ephesus: [https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/pionius\\_life\\_of\\_polycarp\\_or\\_text.htm](https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/pionius_life_of_polycarp_or_text.htm).
12. Pausanias, *Description of Greece*, VI.14.iii. <https://www.theoi.com/Text/Pausanias6A.html>
13. Beale, 243.

## Confession of Hope | The Lord's Prayer

All:           Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
                  your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
                  Give us this day our daily bread,  
                  and forgive us our debts,  
                  as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
                  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
                  For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
                  Amen.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

## Introduction to the Table

A few words on how we celebrate the Lord's Supper at LPC:

- We invite everyone to proceed down the middle aisle as the ushers dismiss your row and to individually, or as a family, go to one of the tables.  
\*If you are unable to go forward, we will bring the elements to you in your seat but please let us know with a wave of your hand! For those sitting in the transepts, please come to the tables first.
- We use real bread at the tables but there are gluten free wafers on the center table that you may pick up on your way to a table.
- We have both red wine and white grape juice in our trays. The red wine is in the tinted cup.
- If you are not partaking of the Supper, we encourage you to come forward and refrain from taking the elements, but to consider the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the welcome that is offered in the Gospel. There are cards on the tables where you will find printed prayers that offer honest words for those who are seeking truth.
- Please discard cups in the black trash cans placed at the front of the sanctuary.
- We encourage you to sing along with us as everyone proceeds forward and is served!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

## Words of Institution

## Eating and Drinking at the Table of the LORD

## \* On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

1. On Jor - dan's stor - my banks I stand, And cast a wish - ful \_\_\_  
 2. All o'er those wide \_\_\_ ex - ten - ded plains, Shines one e - ter - nal \_\_\_  
 3. No chill - ing winds \_\_\_ nor pois - onous breath, Can reach that health - ful \_\_\_  
 4. When shall I reach \_\_\_ that hap - py place, And be for - ev - er \_\_\_

4  
 eye To Can - aan's fair \_\_\_ and hap - py land, Where my pos - ses - sions  
 day There God, the Son \_\_\_ for - ev - er reigns, And scat - ters night a -  
 shore, Where sick - ness, sor - row, pain, \_\_\_ and death, Are felt and feared no  
 blessed Where shall I see \_\_\_ my Fa - ther's face, And in his bo - som

8  
 1. 2, 3, 4.  
 \_\_\_ lie. 2. All way. I am \_\_\_ bound, I am \_\_\_ bound, I am bound for Prom-ised  
 more.  
 rest.

13  
 Land \_\_\_ I am \_\_\_ bound I am \_\_\_ bound, I am bound for Prom-ised Land. \_\_\_

Words: Samuel Stennett 1787  
 Music: Chris Miner, 1997

## \* Sending

## \* Benediction | Romans 15:13

*Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## \* Postlude

## Serving This Morning:

Updates: Tyler Josephson

Liturgist and Pastoral Prayer: John Thompson

Readers: Steve Baarendse, Theron Drayton

Musicians: Butch and Teresa Bost, Charles and Angela Brant, Katie Drayton, Jeff Francis, Tim McConnell, Brian Skelly

Audio/visual and livestream: Myles Coleridge, Jim McFarland, Todd Shafer, Jason Waters.

## Faith Promise Giving:

LPC fiscal budget year is July 1st to June 30th.

Through the end of March 2025:

General Fund transfer to missions      \$97,497

Transfer from 2023/2024 surplus\*      \$44,702

Faith Promise Giving:      \$76,701

Missions Disbursements      \$143,341

\* The Elders and Deacons transferred one-half of last year's operating surplus to missions.

## Stewardship

Through the end of March 2025:

Budget FYTD      \$915,956

Received FYTD      \$874,555

Expenditures FYTD      \$786,466

## Connect Card

Thanks for joining us today.  
We would love to come alongside you in your walk with Jesus, whether you're new to our community or you've been here a while.

Visit [lexpreschurch.com/connect](https://lexpreschurch.com/connect) or scan the QR code to fill out our Connect Card!

If you're not familiar with QR codes, we're here to help!



1. Open your smartphone's camera and point it at the QR code so that it shows clearly on your screen.
2. Wait for the camera to recognize and scan the QR code.
3. Click the link banner or notification when it pops up on your screen. Our Connect Card will automatically load in your browser.

Women's Ministry website and Facebook group:

<https://lexpreschurch.com/womens-ministry/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LPCWomen>

## Youth Ministry Newsletter Subscription

Please, scan this QR Code with your phone camera.



**Please pick up your lilies on your way out;  
they are located in the Tomlin Hall Lobby.**



**LEXINGTON**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**MISSIONS**  
**MOMENT**

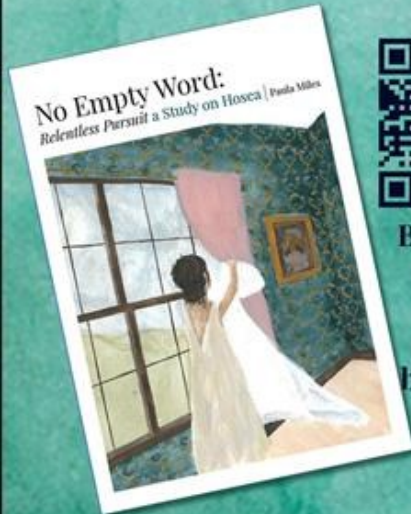
Welcome  
Wayne & Amy Newsome  
our missionaries  
to Japan



**YOUTH MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR**  
**GENTLY USED SEATING**  
**FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ROOM**  
**PLEASE CONTACT ANDREA FULLER AT**  
**YOUTH@LEXPRESCHURCH.COM TO DONATE.**



**Women's Summer Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays | 6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
**May 27<sup>th</sup> - July 15<sup>th</sup>**



**Be sure to**  
**register**  
**and pay**  
**for your**  
**book here**

LPC Spring 2025 Baby Bottle Campaign for



Please help support  
our local mission partner  
LaVie Pregnancy Care Center  
by loading a baby bottle with  
loose change, cash or a check!  
Stop by our table  
in the Welcome Center  
We will collect filled bottles  
from Mother's Day (5/11)  
through Father's Day (6/15)





# LEXINGTON COUNTY BLOWFISH



Stay tuned for information about this summer's sponsored baseball games  
Hint: they are all part of the 5 game ticket packages they offer!



May the GOD of *Hope* fill you with all *Joy* and *Peace* as you trust in HIM, so that you may overflow with *Hope* by the *Power* of the HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 15:13 NIV

# LOST & FOUND

Please check our lost and found table in Tomlin Lobby for found items that may belong to you!

Download the app today!



- Service Times
- Easy Giving
- Event Signups
- Community Connection
- Family Pre-Check

Please upload family and individual photos to our secure directory.  
Take photos today at the photo booth in the Welcome Center.



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