



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
09.19.2021

Welcome to Worship at Midtown! We are really glad to have you with us for worship today. Whether you have been a Christian for many years, or are trying to sort out what the Christian faith is all about, or are just here as a favor to your friend, we're happy to have you.

We have a nursery provided for little ones. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

Who are you?

- A. You are extraordinarily generous, ecstatically loving of the right person, supremely knowledgeable about what is wrong with the country, about people, capable of moments of insight unsurpassed by any scientist or artist in the country. You possess an infinite potentiality.
- B. You are of all people in the world probably the most selfish, hateful, envious (e.g., you take pleasure in reading death notices in the newspaper and in hearing of an acquaintance's heart attack), the most treacherous, the most frightened, and above all the phoniest.

Which of these two sentences more nearly describes you?

- A.
- B.
- C. Neither
- D. Both

If you checked D. both—60 percent of respondents did—how can that be?

--Walker Percy

The Word

Worship begins with God's call to us to worship him. As always, God initiates with us, such as we are, and invites us to be with him out of sheer mercy.

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n -ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove _ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love _ and all his great -ness show!



Praise him for his no -ble deeds! _ Praise him for his match -less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro -ceeds, let earth and hea -ven a - dore, let

Chorus



earth and hea -ven a - dore! Praise the name _ of Christ, cel - e -



brate _ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord _ of life!



We'll sing the sto -ry of hon -or and glo -ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
We'll sing the story of honor and glory, and praise the name! [Chorus]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let
him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our
God, for he will freely pardon.

We confess our sins as
a group and
individually because
we need to. We come
to worship God even
though we are morally
broken, in certain hope
that he is merciful to
people like us, and
able to change us by
his grace.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together.]

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

[You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.]

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega

Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.

Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Our consciences are weak and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness. So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

What Wondrous Love is This

Music & Lyrics: American Folk Hymn

What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
soul! What won-dous love is this, O my soul. — What
won-dous love is this that caused the Lord — of bliss to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Brittany Smith]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father,
since You have promised to grant our requests, we
make our supplications to You in the name of Your
Son, Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence). Amen.

The prayers of the people enable us to join our minds and hearts in one voice to God, like we do when we sing. Be careful about merely repeating the words without engaging your whole self in prayer.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to be
wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (silence). Amen.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving grace
through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence). Amen.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Anna Hamstra]

Isaiah 62:1-5

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-5

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

--Lyrics: Joseph Scriven; Music: Charles Converse



What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.



O what peace we of-ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
Jesus, Savior, is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Blessed Savior, you have promised, all our burdens you will bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to you in earnest prayer.
Soon, in glory bright unclouded, face to face it is our prayer!
Joyful praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

We use the ancient creeds and confessions to reinforce our confidence in God's grace, and to highlight our connection to his people around the world who worship him with these same words every Lord's Day.

Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation and Prayer

[Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer.]

The Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Institution

The Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

The Mystery of Faith

Minister: Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!**

Minister: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

[As you are ready please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. We are using individual cups and wafers as a concession to the virus. The red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lyrics: Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music: Christopher Miner

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day'.

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the
sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a
home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the
burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess;
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



O how he takes _ the cross, O how he lifts _ it up



to take the weight from us. O how he pays _ the cost,



O how he drinks the cup, to make a place _ for us.

CHORUS



Take us, _ O Lord, and all we have known. Shape us, O



Lord, and form us in - to your own. Take eve - ry heart and



know eve-ry sin. Break us, O Lord, that we may be whole a - gain.

Hear how he breaks the curse, hear how he cries aloud,
Hear how his voice resounds. O how he forms the words,
O how he cries them out, "See it is finished now!"

How deep the wounds he wears, how dark the scars he shows,
How well the name he knows; written upon his palms,
O what a name to find. That name before him: Mine!

Benediction

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. (Note that the Midtown box is separate from the Vineyard ones—ours cleverly says “Midtown”!) You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you. You can email Charles (charles@mpctucson.org) to get on the list.

Prayer before the service: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, September 26, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at the U of A Mall.

Women’s Bible Study: This Wednesday evening at 7:00 at the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Yunuen Jankowski will be leading a discussion of Larry Crabb’s book Shattered Dreams.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

RUF Front Porch Bible Study: Tuesdays @8:00pm at Koffler 216.

Midtown Hikes: The next one will be on the morning of 10/2. J.D. Doak will have more details closer to that day.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra &
Rebekah Taylor

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