



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost
10.21.2018

Welcome to Worship at Midtown!

We are just starting our corporate worship services, and are really glad to have you with us. 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 in the patio room. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Worship Note

"It is called *Holy Communion* because when feeding at this implausible table, Christians believe that they are communing with the Holy One himself, his spirit enlivening their spirits, heating the blood and gladdening the heart just the way wine, as spirits, can. They are also, of course, communing with each other. To eat any meal together is to meet at the level of our most basic need. It is hard to preserve your dignity with butter on your chin or to keep your distance with asking for the tomato ketchup".

—Frederick Buechner

Reflection

There's a man upon the cross and has been crucified. Do you have any idea why or for who he died? When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?

—Bob Dylan

Sleep! I feel the need of it. Yet my axe is restless in my hand. Give me a row of orc necks and room to swing, and all weariness will fall from me!

—Gimli

The Word

Call to Worship

Revelation 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

6
Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er

10
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Lyrics: James Montgomery; Music: Sandra McCracken

Chorus



Hail to the Lord's an - oint-ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail to - the



time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

Verse



1. He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2. He comes with com - fort speed - y, to those who suf - fer wrong;
3. The King shall have do - min - ion from sea to shin - ing sea,



to take a - way trans - gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
and ov - er ev - - ry na - tion His peace - ful rule shall be.



He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful - earth;
To give them songs for sigh - ing, dark - ness turned to - light,
king - dom is in - creas - ing, king - dom with - out - end.



love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in His path to birth. *To Chorus*
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
For Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly praise as - cend.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Confession of Sin

Please pray aloud together

Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls.

Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.



Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Lyrics & Music: Thomas O. Chisholm



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;



Thou chang - est not, thy comp - pas - sions they fail not;



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

(Please pray the italicized portions aloud together.)

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you commanded the apostles to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every person.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a ready will to obey your word.

Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

May our children follow you all of their lives.

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.

Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.

(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

O God, everlasting Father, your kingdom comes by your power.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom to us.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom through us.

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples to pray, saying:
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

Isaiah 29:13-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

People: *Praise be to you, O Christ*

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing
Bridge
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. *Chorus*

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. *Chorus*

New Testament Reading

Revelation 3:1-6

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.’ “I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: *That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death,
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by His Holy Spirit
He also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.*

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.]

Sursum Corda

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.

Words of Institution

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 provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down.
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he.
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he.

Chorus

The table now is spread, the table now is spread
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near.

Chorus

Lord I Need You

Music & Lyrics: Carson, Nockels, Maher, Reeves, & Stanfill



Lord, I come, I con - fess. Bow-ing here, I find my



rest. And with-out you, I fall a - part. You're the

Chorus



one that guides my heart. Lord, I need you, Oh, I need you.



Ev - 'ry hour I need you. My one de-fense,



my right - eous-ness, Oh, God, how I need _ you.

Bridge



So, teach my song to rise to you, When temp - ta-tion comes my way.



When I can-not stand, I'll fall on you, Je-sus, you're my hope and stay.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.

Where grace is found is where You are.

Where You are, Lord, I am free! Holiness is Christ in me.

Benediction

Silent Prayers During Communion

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed): Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Taking Communion: Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the Joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, you have called me to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box in the back of the nave that you can use as you enter or leave, or as you come to communion. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Living Place Need: Our friend Deogratias, an asylum seeker here from Burundi, is looking for a place to stay starting in November. If you know of a good spot please let us know.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you.

Women4Truth Conference: Aimee Byrd will be speaking at the Women4Truth Conference at New Valley Church in Chandler on February 23rd. Several of the Midtown crew are going. Sign up at www.women4truth.com

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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