



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
02.11.2024

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

The advantage of a fixed form of service is that we know what is coming. Extemporaneous public prayer has this difficulty; we don't know whether we can mentally join in until we've heard it—it might be phony or heretical. We are therefore called upon to carry on a critical and a devotional activity at the same moment: two things hardly compatible. In a fixed form we ought to have 'gone through the motions' before in our private prayers; the rigid form really sets our devotions free. I also find the more rigid it is, the easier it is to keep one's thoughts from straying. Also it prevents getting too completely eaten up by whatever happens to be the preoccupation of the moment (i.e., war, an election, or what not). The permanent shape of Christianity shows through. I don't see how the extemporaneous method can help becoming provincial, and I think it has a great tendency to direct attention to the minister rather than to God.

--C. S. Lewis

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 84:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

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.

To Christ the Lord Let Every Tongue

Music: Laura Taylor; Lyrics: Samuel Stennent

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'To Christ the Lord Let Every Tongue'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'To Christ the Lord let ev - ery tongue, its nob - lest tri - bute bring. When he's the sub - ject of the song, who can re - fuse to sing? - Sur - vey the beau - ties of his face, and on his glo - ries dwell; - think of the won - der of his grace, and all his tri - umphs - tell.'

To Christ the Lord let ev - ery tongue, its nob - lest tri - bute
bring. When he's the sub - ject of the song, who
can re - fuse to sing? - Sur - vey the beau - ties
of his face, and on his glo - ries dwell; - think
of the won - der of his grace, and all his tri - umphs - tell.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon his awful brow.
His head with radiant glories crowned, his lips with grace overflow.
No mortal can with him compare among the sons of men;
Fairer He is than all the fair that fill the heavenly train

He saw me plunged in deep distress, he fled to my relief.
For me he bore the shameful cross and carried all my grief
His hand a thousand blessings pours upon my guilty head
His presence gilds my darkest hours and guards my sleeping bed

To Him I owe my life and breath and all the joys I have
He makes me triumph over death and saves me from the grave
To Heaven the place of His abode he brings my weary feet
Shows me the glories of my God and makes my joy complete

Since from his bounty I receive such proofs of love divine.
Had I a thousand hearts to give, Lord they should all be thine.
A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Confession of Sin

[Please pray aloud together]

Gracious God,

You know what kind of people we are.

We judge others harshly

and fail to see our own sin.

We look with suspicion and fear,

and neglect to show hospitality

to strangers. We treasure things that are worthless and

squander your precious gifts. We withhold the grace and love

that you give us so freely. Forgive us.

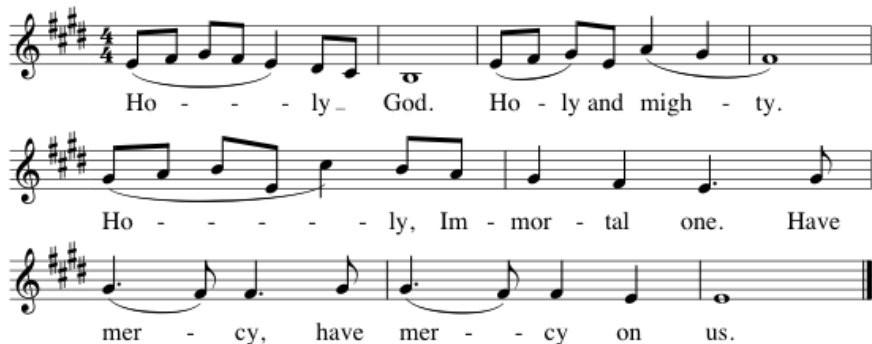
Pour out your grace upon us

and heal us of our brokenness. 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

John 3:16

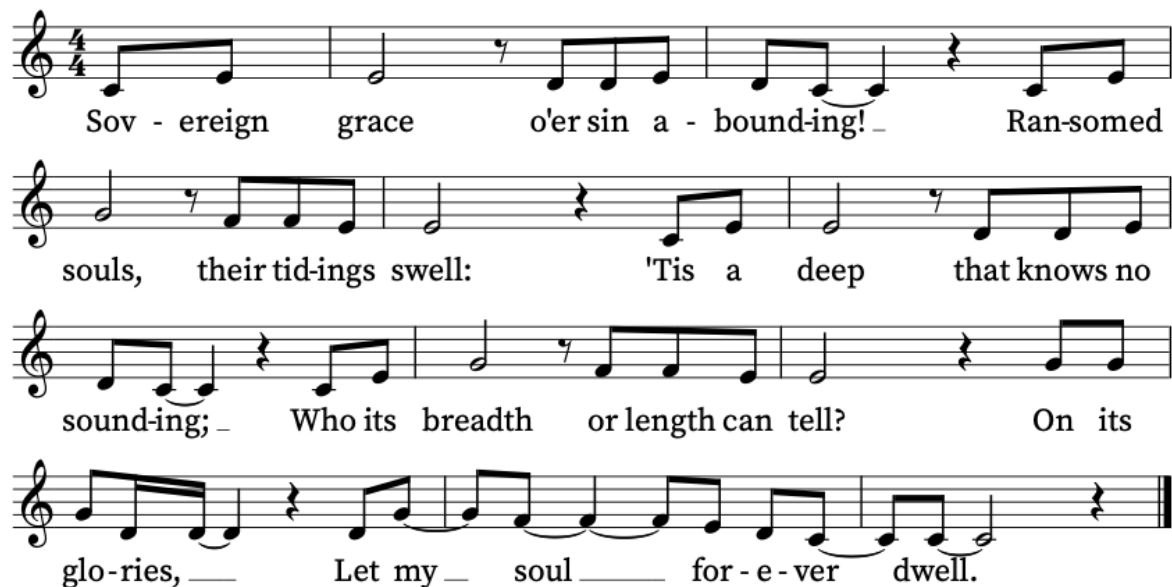
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Sovereign Grace O'er Sin Abounding

Lyrics: John Kent; Music: Sandra McCracken



Sov - ereign grace o'er sin a - bound-ing! - Ran-somed
souls, their tid-ings swell: 'Tis a deep that knows no
sound-ing; - Who its breadth or length can tell? On its
glo-ries, - Let my - soul - - - for - e - ver dwell.

What from Christ that soul can sever, bound by everlasting bands?
Once in Him, in Him forever; Thus th' eternal covenant stands.
None shall take Thee from the Strength of Israel's hands.

Heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus, long ere time its race begun;
To His name eternal praises; O what wonders love has done!
One with Jesus, by eternal union one.

On such love, my soul, still ponder, love so great, so rich, so free;
Say, while lost in holy wonder, why, O Lord, such love to me?
Hallelujah! Grace shall reign. Hallelujah! Grace shall reign.
Hallelujah! Grace shall reign eternally.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God,

that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We especially pray for the healing of our doctrinal and racial divisions.

(Please pray silently for the unity of the Church.)

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

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the ways of justice and peace;

that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

(Please pray silently for justice and peace in all nations.)

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

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,
**and grant that we may serve them,
and love one another as Christ loves us.**

(Please pray silently for our love and service of others.)

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

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
**give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

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

[Reader: Nikki Smith]

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

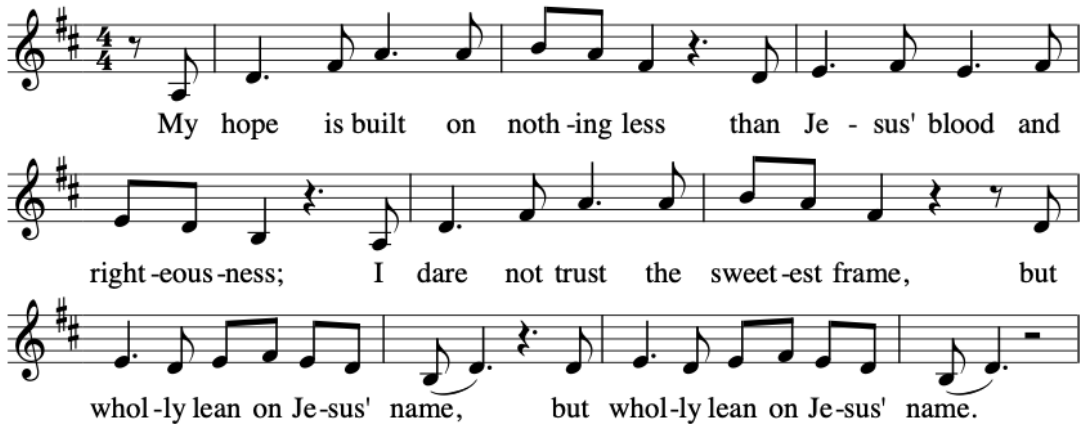
Matthew 5:13-16

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

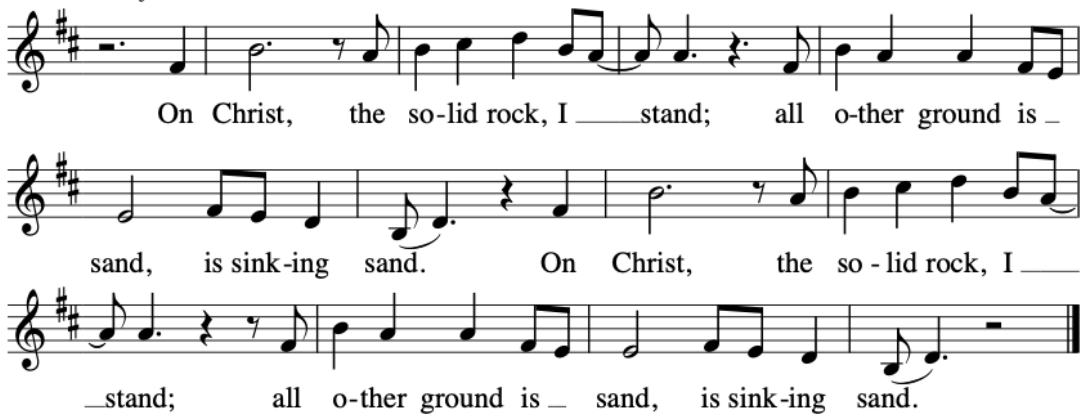
Solid Rock

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers



My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
right-eous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain



On Christ, the so-lid rock, I ____ stand; all o-ther ground is _
sand, is sink-ing sand. On Christ, the so - lid rock, I ____
_stand; all o-ther ground is _ sand, is sink-ing sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil,
My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his bloodSupport me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone, And faultless stand before the throne,
And faultless stand before the throne. [Refrain]

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

⁵I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, ⁶and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. ¹¹So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

¹²Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

¹³Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints— ¹⁶be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, ¹⁸for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

¹⁹The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²²If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith & Receiving New Members

**Martin Bayazitoglu
Dan & Nancy Horton**

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 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 down one of the aisles. Take bread and eat it, then take a cup and drink. If you prefer grape juice and/or a gluten free wafer, they are available on the middle table. Please return down the same aisle.]

The Love of God

Lyrics & Music: Matt Fredrich Martin Lehman

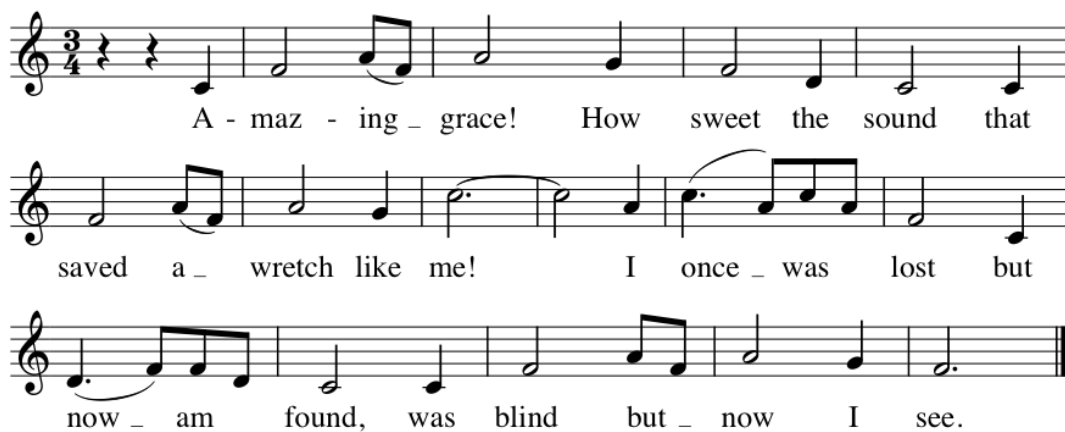
The love of God is great-er _ far than tongue or pen can ev-er
tell. It goes be-yond the high-est star, and reach-es to _ the low-est _
hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care. God gave his Son _ to _
win. His err-ing child, he re-con - ciled, and par-doned from _ his _
Refrain
sin. O love of God, how rich and _ pure; how mea-sure - less _ and
strong. It shall for - ev - more en - dure the saints and an - gels _ song.

When years of time shall pass away, And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men, who here, refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race, The saints' and angels' song. [Refrain]

Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho' stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]

Amazing Grace

Lyrics & Music: John Newton



A - maz - ing _ grace! How sweet the sound that
saved a _ wretch like me! I once _ was lost but
now _ am found, was blind but _ now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there, ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun;
We've no less days, to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Benediction

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. Online, you can give at (www.mpctucson.org/donate). —>>



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.

Super Bowl Party: Today after church at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave.). The game starts at 4:30pm and church starts at 5:00pm. We will record the game and start it when we gather after church (around 6:45 presumably). Invite friends if you want to.

Ash Wednesday Service: We will meet this Wednesday 5pm on 2/14 here at the Vineyard for our Ash Wednesday service. It is a short penitential service with imposition of ashes (a Biblical sign of repentance) at the end. The service lasts about 30 minutes (in case you have Valentines plans.)

Men's Book Group: We'll meet this Tuesday, 2/13 at 7pm at the McReynolds' (1241 E Sobre Lomas). The book this month is C.S. Lewis's The Four Loves.

Lenten Food Bank Servng: Our first Saturday morning at the food bank will be on March 2nd. Bill Solyst is leading the effort that day. Let him know if you can come help (847-239-0465; billsolyst@gmail.com).

Church Pot Luck Dinner: Our next after church Potluck is next Sunday, 2/18. The sign up for bringing food is in the church email or at this link—>



Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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