



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Palm Sunday

03.24.2024

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

There is not one of the godly who does not daily experience in himself the same thing. According to the judgment of the flesh, he thinks he is cast off and forsaken by God, while yet he apprehends by faith the grace of God, which is hidden from the eye of sense and reason.

—John Calvin

“Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms.

When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be—or so it feels—welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in our time of trouble?

—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 34:3

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

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

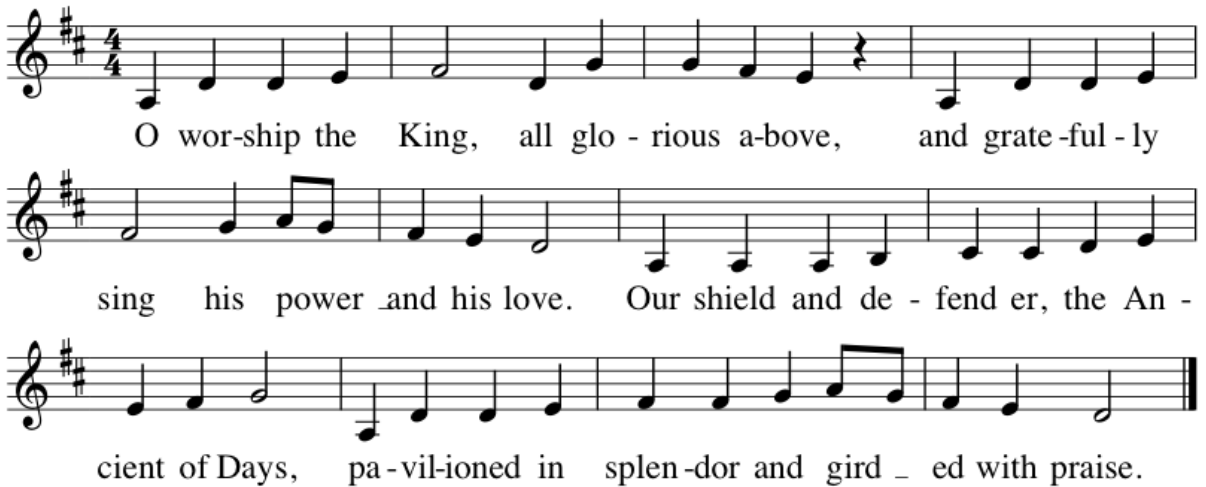
Music: Charles Meineke



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.

O Worship the King

Lyrics: Robert Grant; Music: Johann Haydn



O wor-ship the King, all glo - rious a-bove, and grate-ful - ly
sing his power and his love. Our shield and de - fend er, the An -
cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Prayer of Invocation

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Jesus Paid It All

—Lyrics & Music: Elvina M. Hall



Chorus



Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.

[Bridge] O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead;
O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead!

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,

That we all may be one.

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

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

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully and humbly
serve you.

That your Name would be honored by all people.

(Please pray silently for the mission of the church.)

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the
world

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

(Please pray silently for the nations of the world.)

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble

That they may be delivered from their distress.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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.**

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 27:37-50

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Thy Mercy My God

--Lyrics: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Thy Mercy My God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: 'Thy mer-cy, my God, is the theme _ of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast _ of my tongue; Thy free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.'

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.
Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸"He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he
has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Matt Esswein

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

We use the ancient creeds 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.

**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 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.]

None Will Be Denied

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers

CHORUS



Je - sus Christ took - his hands, spread them o - pen wide,
"Come all ye bro - ken ones None will be - de - nied."

VERSE



I went up to Ga - li - lee, what do you think I'd seen?
Men of dir - ty sin - ners there sit - tin' at Je - sus' feet. *to Chorus*

I went up to Jerusalem, what do you think I saw?
Beaten Jesus through the street, carryin' the big old cross.

They pounded those nails into his hands, they pierced his naked side.
"Father, please forgive them," was what Jesus cried. [Chorus]

Height, nor depth, nor even hell can ever separate;
He burst forth in glorious light on that third day. [Chorus]

The witnesses surround us all, though they seem unseen,
So set your eyes on the prize: Jesus Christ, his name.

Till He Come

Lyrics: Edward Henry Bickersteth; Music: Ghost of Caroline

Till he come! O let the words
Linger on the trembling chords;
Let the little while between
In their golden light be seen;
Let us think how heav'n and home
Lie beyond that "Till he come."

When the weary ones we love
Enter on their rest above,
Seems the earth so poor and vast,
All our life joy overcast?
Hush, be ev'ry murmur dumb:
It is only till he come.

Clouds and conflicts round us press:
Would we have one sorrow less?
All the sharpness of the cross,
All that tells the world is loss,
Death and darkness, and the tomb,
Only whisper "Till he come."

See, the feast of love is spread,
Drink the wine, and break the bread:
Sweet memorials, till the Lord
Call us round his heav'nly board;
Some from earth, from glory some,
Severed only till he come.

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.

Good Friday Service: We will meet at 6pm on Good Friday at the north end of Himmel Park for our Good Friday service. It will be getting dark, so bring a phone or tablet with the bulletin we will send out that week. The service is a reflection on Jesus' last words on the cross.

New Children's Director: Annalyse is taking over as our new Children's Director. You can reach her at annalyse@mpctucson.org if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions.

Instagram: We have a new instagram site: @mpctucson. Check it out. Also if you have good pictures from around our congregation that might be useful for our website (www.mpctucson.org), please send them to Annalyse (annalyse@mpctucson.org).

Change in Nursery Location: Starting next week **ALL** children will be in the Hamilton House where there is room for both sections. Check in and pick up will be through the courtyard door of the Hamilton House from here on out. The front door of the Hamilton House will remain locked at all times, for safety reasons. Please talk to Annalyse Rash with any further questions.

Easter Service: We will meet at our regular time (5pm) for our Easter Sunday service next week. We will be outside under the tent again this year.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Children's Director: Annalyse Rash
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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