

ADVENT



2019

The Christmas War

MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

12.08.2019

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

But where there is this experience, namely, that He is a God who looks into the depths and helps only the poor, despised, afflicted, miserable, forsaken and those who are nothing, there a hearty love for Him is born.

--Martin Luther

The Word

Call to Worship—

Lighting of the Peace Candle

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall, as Luke records: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Music: Felix Mendelssohn; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



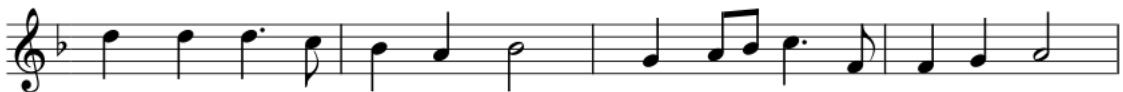
Hark! the her - ald an-gels sing, - "Glo-ry to the new-born King;



peace on earth and mer-cy mild, - God and sin - ners re-con-ciled!"



Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies; -



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is - born in Beth-le-ham!"

Refrain



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry - to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

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

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Lyrics: Frank Houghton; Music: French Carol

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are: 'Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der, sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - came - est poor.'

Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's
sake be - cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - came - est poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art God beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.

(Please pray silently for the ministry of the church.) Amen.

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

We pray for peace in every corner of the world: in Afghanistan and Syria, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.

(Please pray silently for our world.) Amen.

Lord, you offer comfort to those who are in need.

We commend to you all who are afflicted: those who are ill, those who suffer in poverty, those who wrestle with all sorts of addictions, as well as those who sorrow, that they will be comforted in their time of tribulation.

(Please pray silently for all who suffer.) Amen.

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in our history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray now in the words he taught us:

**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

PSalm 68:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Revelation 12:7-12

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

What Child Is This?

Lyrics: William C. Dix; Music: Greensleeves



What child is this who laid to rest; on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing? Whom



an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep herds watch are keep-ing?



This, this _ is Christ the King, whom shep-hards guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste _ to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Ma - ry.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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 church which proclaims the gospel. 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!**

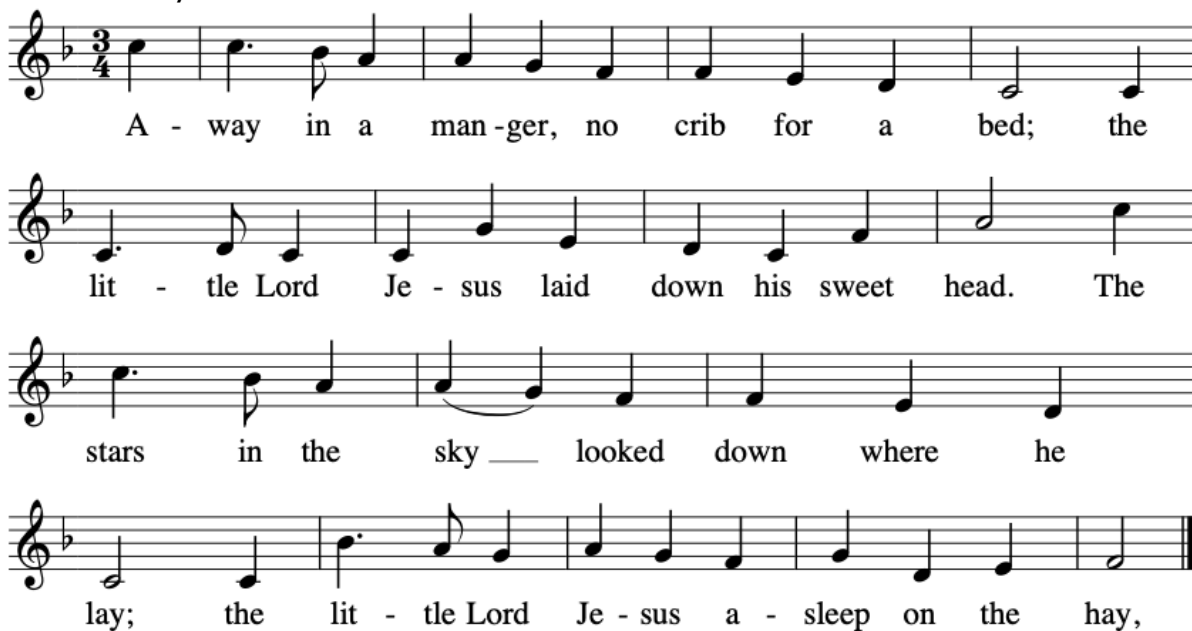
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

[As you are ready please come forward 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.]

Away in a Manger

Music & Lyrics: Traditional



A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed; the
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
stars in the sky — looked down where he
lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay,

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mor-tal flesh keep _ si - lence, and with fear and
trem - bling _ stand; pon-der noth-ing earth - ly _
mind -ed, for with bless-ing in his _ hand, Christ our God to
earth de - scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a hymn book.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Benediction

Notes

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

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.

Christmas Eve Service: We will have our Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve at 6:30 in the chapel. This will be a whole family service, i.e., no nursery. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

Book Groups: Men's book club will meet Tuesday, December 10th at 7 PM at Matt McReynold's house to discuss Beowulf. Women's book club will meet Friday, January 10th at Alicia Moriss's house to discuss The Book Thief by Markus Zusak.

Church Christmas Party: Friday night, December 13, at William and Nancy Price's home (6280 N Placita De Luis). Details to follow

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Ministers: Dan & Brittany Smith

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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