



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

The First Sunday in Advent

12.02.2018

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 in the patio room. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Worship Note

One way that we mark the time of this season is with the Advent wreath. The evergreens help to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus Christ. The wreath consists of five candles; four candles around the wreath and one white candle in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday of Advent, with the center, "Christ candle", lit on Christmas Eve. The light progressively reminds us that Jesus is the one who comes into the darkness of our world to bring renewal, life, and hope (Isaiah 42:6).

Reflection

He comes to us in the brokenness of our health, in the shipwreck of our family lives, in the loss of all possible peace of mind, even in the very thick of our sins. He saves us in our disasters, not from them. He emphatically does not promise to meet only the odd winner of the self-improvement lottery; he meets us all in our endless and inescapable losing.

— Robert Farrar Capon

The Word

Call to Worship

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

The first candle reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come, as Isaiah prophesied: "The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel!"

On Christmas day the Christ of our hope was born. On Good Friday the Christ of our hope died. On Easter day the Christ of our hope rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come o come Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
Is - ra - el. That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
Refrain
til the Son of God - ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe for us the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. [Refrain]

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

[Pray aloud together]

Lord Jesus Christ,

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
But also our refusal to forgive and love others.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure
to respond to you as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, help us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;**

with gratitude, as Simeon;

with obedience, as Mary;

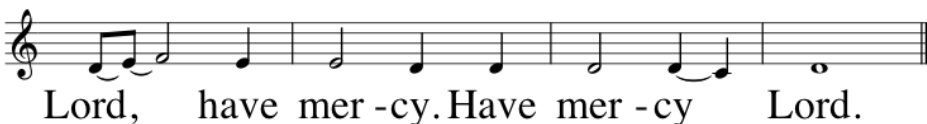
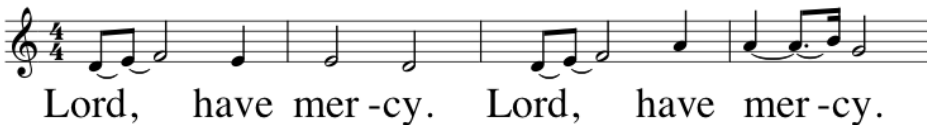
with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



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!

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Music: Rowland Pritchett; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Come Thou long _ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.



From our fear _and sins re - lease _ us, let us find our rest _ in Thee.



Is-rael's strength _and con-so-la - tion, hope of all _the saints Thou art.



Dear _de-sire _ of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

The Prayers of the People

(Please pray aloud together.)

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.**

New Testament Reading

James 5:7-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-33

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

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 the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line has a melodic line with a slur over the last three notes. The second line has a melodic line with a quarter rest in the second measure. The third line has a melodic line with a dotted quarter note in the eighth measure. The fourth line has a melodic line with a slur over the first three notes and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Ruth 1

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the

hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

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.]

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 G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

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!"

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.

Benediction

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.

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 speaking at New Valley Church in Chandler, February 23rd. Sign up at www.women4truth.com

Women's Christmas Brunch: December 15, 10:00 am, at Julie Garland's home (1324 N Norton Ave).

Graduation celebration for Stephanie Bowyer: December 15, 5:00 pm. Kids and families welcome. More info to come and please talk to Brittany Smith if you would be willing to bring a side dish.

Christmas Eve Service: We will meet here on Christmas Eve at 6:30 for a Lessons and Carols service

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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