



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

03.12.2023

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**

It's no more narrow to claim that one religion is the right one than to claim that your one way to think about all religions is the right one.

—Tim Keller

# 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 96:1-4

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

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.

# Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove \_ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love \_ and all his great -ness show!



Praise him for his no -ble deeds! \_ Praise him for his match -less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro -ceeds, let earth and hea -ven a - dore, let

## *Chorus*



earth and hea -ven a - dore! Praise the name \_ of Christ, cel - e -



brate \_ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord \_ of life!



We'll sing the sto -ry of hon -or and glo -ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;  
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!  
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;  
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,  
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, We'll sing the  
story of honor and glory, and praise the name!  
[Chorus]

## Prayer of Invocation

### Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

We confess our sins as a group and individually because we need to. We come to worship God even though we are morally broken, in certain hope that he is merciful to people like us, and able to change us by his grace.

### Confession of Sin

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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

## Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



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



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

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 3:23-24

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Lyrics & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Michael Bleeker



Come be-hold the won-drous mys-tery, in the dawn-ing of the King. He, the



theme of heav-en's prais-es, robed in frail hu-man-i - ty. In our



long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come! Look to



Christ who con-de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran-som - us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: he the perfect Son of Man,  
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man,  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory!  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,  
Bringing many sons to glory: grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life,  
But no grave could e'er restrain him; praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as will we be when he comes.

## **The Prayers of the People**

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

(Thank Him for His blessings in your life.)

We give thanks to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

**Give grace to our leaders that they may do justice and love mercy and walk humbly before you.**

(Pray for our leaders.)

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

**We pray for the peace and purity and growth of this congregation. We pray for our sister churches in the Arizona Presbytery. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith.**

(Pray for the body of Christ.)

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

**We pray for the spread of the gospel in our city. We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.**

(Pray for those who have not yet come to faith in Christ.)

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

**We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them. We pray for those who are grieving. We pray for those who are lonely. We pray for those who are struggling with enslaving sins.**

(Bring your burdens and requests to the Lord.)



Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Hannah Johnson]

Isaiah 53:1-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Music & Lyrics: Robert Robinson

5 Come, thou fount of ev'-ry bles-sing, tune my heart to sing thy  
9 grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est  
12 praise. Teach me \_ some me - lo-dious - son \_ net sung by \_  
15 fla - ming tongues a - bove. Praise the mount, I'm fixed up -  
pon it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 14:32-42

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup>And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, Peter "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. <sup>41</sup>And he came the third time and said to them, "Are

you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

**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.]

## 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 the center aisle.. 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 outside aisles.]

# Wisdom and Grace

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

REFRAIN

Teach us to num-ber our days that we may ap- ply our hearts to your  
ways O— teach us to num-ber our days with wis-dom and grace, wis-dom and  
grace. Wis - dom and grace, (wis - dom and grace)

VERSE A

1. You've been our home and our dwell-ing, our place in all gen-er - a - tions  
Be-fore the earth or the moun-tains were formed Lord, You were God!

VERSE B

2. Now the span of our life it is made, of— sor-row and la- bor  
3. Let the work of our hands bring You praise, set Your fa- vor up - on us  
As the days pass a - way, like the grass how soon we are gone  
O es - tab - lish the work of our hands, may Your king - dom come.

# In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

## *Verse*



When the fields are dry, and the win-ter is long,



bles-sed are the meek, the - hum-ble the poor; When my



soul is down - cast and my voice has no - song. For mer - cy, for

## *Chorus*



com-fort, I wait on the Lord. In the har - vest feast or the



fal - low ground, my cer - tain hope is in Je - sus found; my



lot, my cup, my por - tion sure, what - e - ver comes we



shall - en - dure, what - e - ver comes - we shall - en - dure.


On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured  
He rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky;  
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door,  
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. [Chorus]

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes,  
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head  
Without His hand to guide me, my shield and my strength;  
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. [Chorus]

## Benediction





MIDTOWN PRESBYTERIAN

2023 EASTER OFFERING



FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKE (the foundation that built the borehole we gave to in 2021) is expanding the school in Leboo to accommodate orphans and girls otherwise vulnerable to child marriage and FGM.

TWO NEW CLASSROOMS  
FOR THE SCHOOL IN  
LEBOO



PROJECT GOAL: \$20,000

Note "Easster Offering" on your check to Midtown Presbyterian  
[www.mpctucson/give](http://www.mpctucson/give)

# 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](http://www.mpctucson.org/donate)). —>>

**Heidelberg Catechism Small Group:** Our next meeting will be February 27th at the Jankowski's home (317 E Canyon View Dr).

**Shower for Sami Byker:** All Midtown women are invite to come celebrate Sami's upcoming marriage on March 25th at 3pm at 2617 E Waverly St. Please RSVP with Annalyse Rash (520)286-7578.

**Men's Book Group:** Reading The Power and the Glory, by Graham Greene, this Tuesday at 7pm at the McReynolds' home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

**Pastor:** Charles Garland  
**Music Director:** Sarah Lewis  
**Nursery Director:** Sami Byker  
**RUF Staff:** Matt & Sarah Esswein

Midtown Presbyterian Church  
[www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org)  
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717  
678.849.7918

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