



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
09.05.2021

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 gospel message says: "You don't live in a mechanistic world ruled by necessity; you don't live in a random world ruled by chance; you live in a world ruled by the God of Exodus and Easter. He will do things in you that neither you nor your friends would have supposed possible."

— Eugene H. Peterson

Since Jesus Christ is the owner of his Church and thus all of its local expressions, we do not get to dream up the mission for our congregation. The Lord of the Church is the one who has "all authority in heaven and on earth" to give us our marching orders. Defining the mission of our congregation is not an exercise in creativity but an exercise in discernment.

— John Kaiser

# 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 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

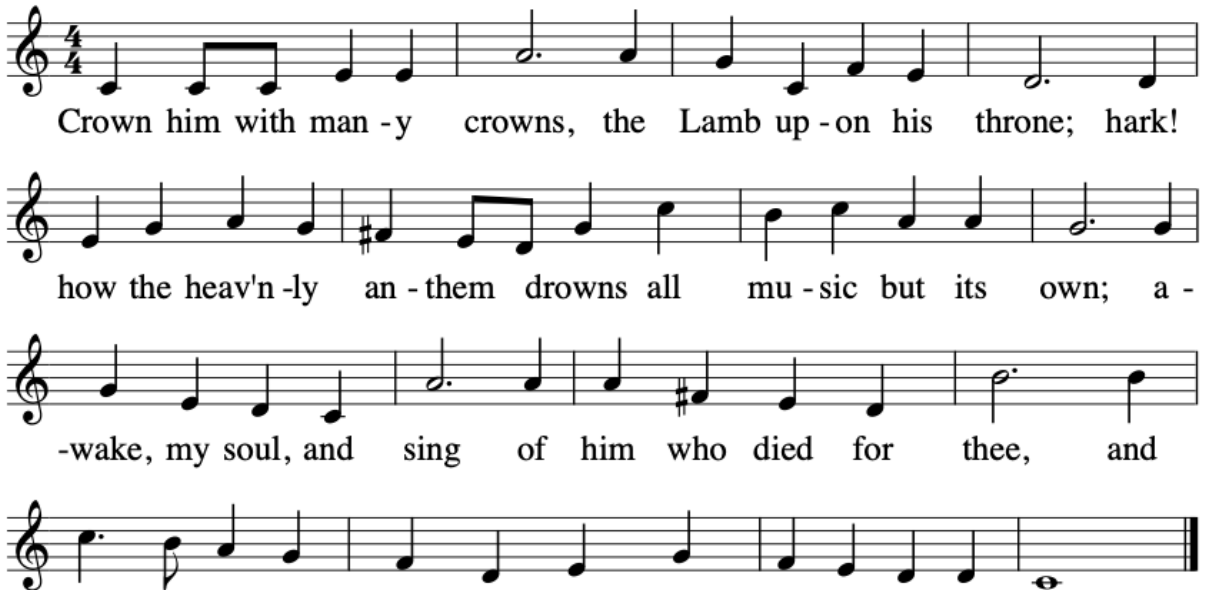
## Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures  
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise  
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

# Crown Him With Many Crowns

Music: George J. Elvy; Lyrics: Matthew Bridges



Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!  
how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -  
-wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and  
hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

## **Prayer of Invocation**

### **Call to Confession of Sin**

Isaiah 43:22,24

You have not called upon me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel... You have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

### **Confession of Sin**

[Pray aloud together]

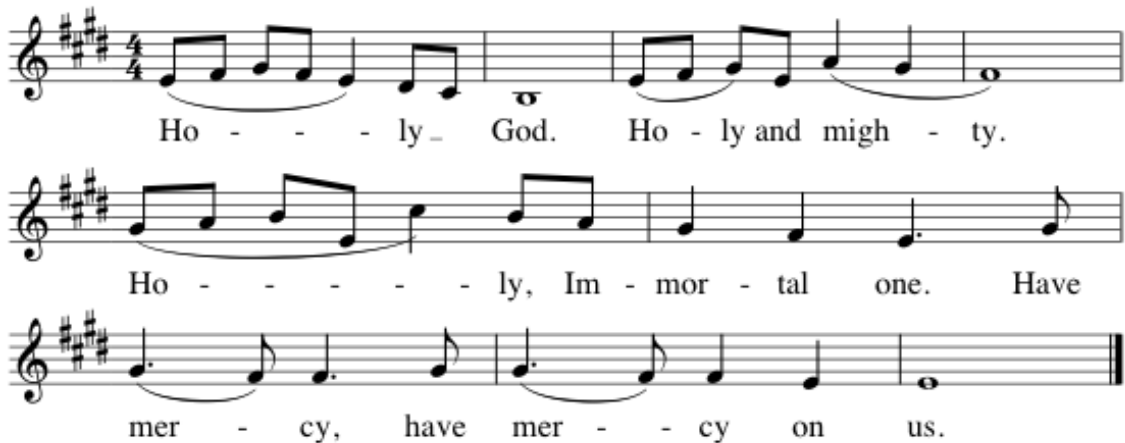
**Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.**

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

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.

## 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

Isaiah 43:25

I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

Our consciences are weak and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness. So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

# His Mercy is More

Lyrics & Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

*Verse*



What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -  
ni - scient, all know - ing, he counts not their sum. Thrown **I**  
in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore, our sins, they are man - y; his

*Chorus*



mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord, - his mer - cy is more. \_\_\_\_  
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn. - Our  
sins, they are man - y; his mer - cy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father so tender is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;  
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

## The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Dave Adams]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Let us pray to the Lord, for the mission of the church,

**that in faithful witness  
it may preach the gospel to the ends  
of the earth, we pray to You, O Lord.**

(Please pray silently for the church throughout the world.)

Amen.

For those who do not yet believe and those struggling with their faith:

**that they may receive the light of the gospel,  
we pray to You, O Lord.**

(Please pray silently for those yet to believe.) Amen.

For the peace of the world,

**that a spirit of respect and forbearance  
may grow among nations and peoples,  
according to Your will,  
we pray to You, O Lord.**

(Please pray silently for the world.) Amen.

The prayers of the people enable us to join our minds and hearts in one voice to God, like we do when we sing. Be careful about merely repeating the words without engaging your whole self in prayer.



For the poor, the persecuted, and all who suffer; for refugees,  
prisoners, and all who are in danger;

**that they may be relieved and protected,  
we pray to You, O Lord.**

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

And hear us as we pray as our Savior 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**

[Reader: Nikki Smith]

Isaiah 49:5-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 16:21-27

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# All I Have Is Christ

Music & Lyrics: Jordan Kauflin

The image shows a musical score for the song 'All I Have Is Christ'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system starts with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'I once was lost in dark-est night yet thought I knew the way. The sin that prom - ised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a re-bel to your will, and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse you still.' The second system is labeled 'Chorus' and has the lyrics: 'Hal - le - lu - - - jah! All I have is Christ! Hal-le - lu - - - jah! Je-sus is my life!' The score ends with a double bar line.

I once was lost in dark-est night yet thought I knew the  
way. The sin that prom - ised joy and life had led me to the  
grave. I had no hope that you would own a re-bel to your  
will, and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse you still.

*Chorus*  
Hal - le - lu - - - jah! All I have is  
Christ! Hal-le - lu - - - jah! Je-sus is my life!

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross;  
And I beheld God's love displayed: you suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace! [Chorus]

Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see  
The strength to follow your commands could never come from me.  
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose  
And let my song forever be: my only boast is you. [Chorus]

## **New Testament Reading**

Acts 28:30-31

**30** He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, **31** proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Minister:     The Word of the Lord.

People:       **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Kelley Hand

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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.

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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

## **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!**

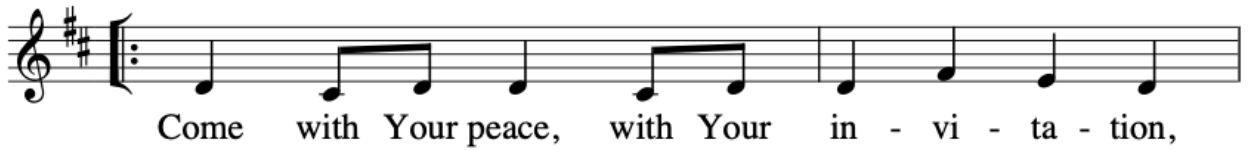
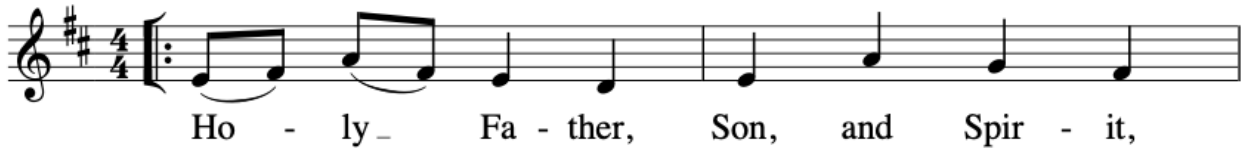
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

## **The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

[As you are ready please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. We are using individual cups and wafers as a concession to the virus. The red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

# Trinity Song

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken



# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

The musical score is written for voice on a single staff in treble clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "O love that will not let me go I rest my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er ful - ler be."

O love that will not let me go I rest  
my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back  
the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths  
its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

## Benediction

# Notes

**Offering:** We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. (Note that the Midtown box is separate from the Vineyard ones—ours cleverly says “Midtown”!) You can also give online at our website [www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org).

**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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**Prayer before the service:** The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

**Midtown Institute:** Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, September 12, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

**Monday Soccer:** Monday at 6:00 at the U of A Mall.

**Women's Fall Bible** Study begins Wed. Sept. 15 at 6PM at the Garland's home at 1324 N. Norton Ave. Yunuen Jankowski will be leading our discussion of Shattered Dreams by Larry Crabb.. We will meet at 6PM g to enjoy a light supper together and then dive into the first chapter at 7PM.

**MPC Hiking Tour!** J.D. Doak is organizing several Saturday morning hikes for us, starting on 9/11 at Mt. Lemmon. Lots of details in the email—contact J.D. at [jd.doak0@gmail.com](mailto:jd.doak0@gmail.com) or 530-601-1960.

**Interested in welcoming Refugees?** Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

**Welcome Kelley Hand!** Kelley is pastor of Desert Palms Presbyterian in Chandler, and also Brock’s Dad, and also Charles’ good friend. Make him welcome!