



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Distancing & Safety Plan

So we can more safely meet together for worship we ask you to help us observe the following:

1. Leave every other pew open.
2. No nursery yet (the room is being renovated).
3. Wear masks so we can sing.
4. Communion will involve coming forward without crowding, and picking up a cup and wafer from the altar rail in front of the pulpit. The separate table of cups will have grape juice if you prefer that. The wafers are gluten free. Come forward up the center aisle and go back to your pew down the north aisle.
5. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
6. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

09.20.2020

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. Our nursery for our little ones isn't open yet, post-quarantine, but there is a cry room in the back, and some room in the foyer if they need a little space.

Reflection

In a sense the converted Jew is the only normal human being in the world. To him, in the first instance, the promises were made, and he has availed himself of them. He calls Abraham his father by hereditary right as well as by divine courtesy. He has taken the whole syllabus in order, as it was set; eaten the dinner according to the menu. Everyone else is, from one point of view, a special case, dealt with under emergency regulations ... we christened gentiles, are after all the graft, the wild vine, possessing "joys not promised to our birth"; though perhaps we do not think of this so often as we might.

—C.S. Lewis

The Word

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!

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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.

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

John 3:20-21

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

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

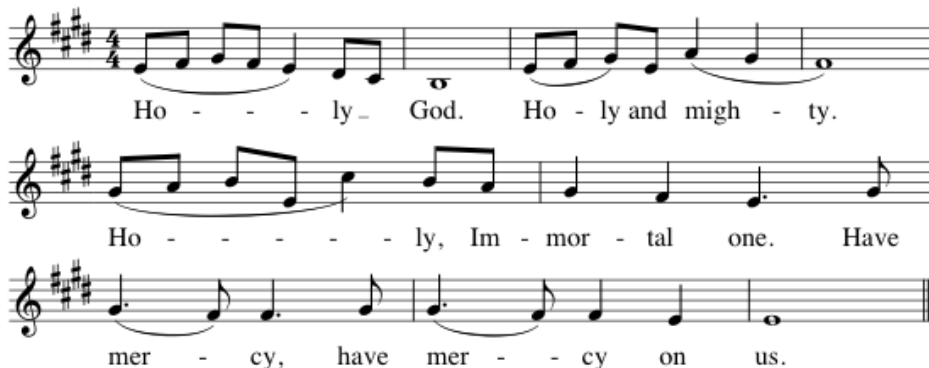
[Pray aloud together]

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And, O most holy and loving Father, help us, we plead with you, to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Lyrics & Music: Robert Robinson

Come, thou fount of ev' - ry bles - sing, tune my
heart to sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, call for
songs of loud - est praise. Teach me - some me - lo - dious -
son - net sung by - fla - ming tongues a - bove. Praise the
mount, I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.

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

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring 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.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by William Price]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying:
Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, especially
where there is war, and for the unity of the body
of Christ, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our world.)

For our nation, the President and all whom we have trusted with the
leadership of our country, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our nation's leaders.)

For this gathering of the faithful at Midtown Presbyterian, as well as
those gathering together in worship throughout the world, let us pray
to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

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 aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

And now hear us as we pray as our Savior taught us, saying:

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: Anna Rich]

Isaiah 59:15-21

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:20-24

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Revelation Song

Music & Lyrics: Jamie Lee Riddle

Verse

Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain; hol-y, hol-y is he; -

Sing a new song to him who sits on heav-en's mer-cy seat. -

Chorus

Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord God Al might - y.

Clothed in rainbows of living color;
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be
To you the only wise King. [Chorus]

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water;
Such a marv'lous mystery. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

Romans 11:11-27

11 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. **12** Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry **14** in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. **15** For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? **16** If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, **18** do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. **19** Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **20** That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. **22** Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. **23** And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. **24** For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermons are God's appointed means to communicate his Good News to a particular group of people in a particular local context. Sermons, by design, aren't impressive, so that God will get credit when he uses them in your life, rather than the preacher.

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.

We use the ancient creeds and confessions 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.

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 cups on the taller, white table have wine and the ones on the wooden table have grape juice.]

***See the front of the bulletin for the Covid-19
Communion plan!**

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Music: Laura Taylor; Lyrics: John Newton

Let us love and sing _ and won-der, let us praise the Savior's _ name.
He has hushed the law's _ loud thun-der, He has quenched Mount Si -
nai's _ flame. He has washed us with his blood, _ He has
washed us with his blood, _ He has washed us with his blood .
_ He has brought us nigh to God. _

Let us love the Lord Who bought us;
Pitied us when enemies.
Called us by His grace and taught us,
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood;
He presents our souls to God.

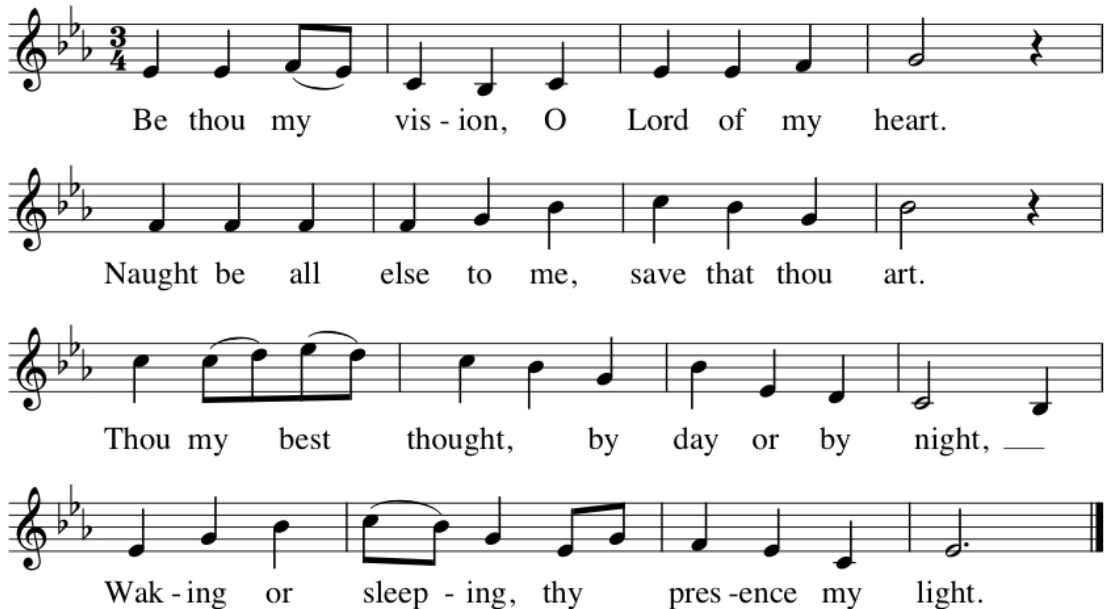
Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us;
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God.

Be Thou My Vision

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Irish Hymn



Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, —
Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou
with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my
delight; Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now
and always: Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright
heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Moving Plans

Next Sunday, September 27th, will be our last Sunday to meet here at Our Saviour's Lutheran. They have been wonderful hosts to us over the past three years, but that time is closing now, due primarily to Covid concerns. We should have news by worship time on Sunday about our new home, but it isn't confirmed as of bulletin printing time. I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us as we watch him extend his kingdom in Tucson, and build Midtown Presbyterian as part of that.

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: 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.

Intro to Midtown Class Sunday Morning, **October 11th**. This is a class for people interested in joining Midtown or just finding out more about us. There is a booklet to read through beforehand, and we'll have the class on 10/11 to discuss questions and ideas. Let Charles know if you are interested so he can get the booklet to you in advance. Meeting place is TBD.

Saturday Morning Homeless Ministry: If you're interested in helping with some relief ministry for homeless people in Midtown, contact Tim and Kim Davis and they will help you get started. (tdavisua74@gmail.com or kimdi74@gmail.com)

Monday Soccer in the Mall: Monday evenings at 5:30 a group is meeting on the U of A mall to play soccer. Everyone is welcome.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra & Rebekah Taylor

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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