



MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

First Sunday after the Epiphany

01.10.2021

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

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.

—T.S. Elliot, The Return of the Magi

They are a church, in other words,...they are a community whose  
political witness is defined by confession and repentance.

—Jennifer McBride

# The Word

## Call to Worship

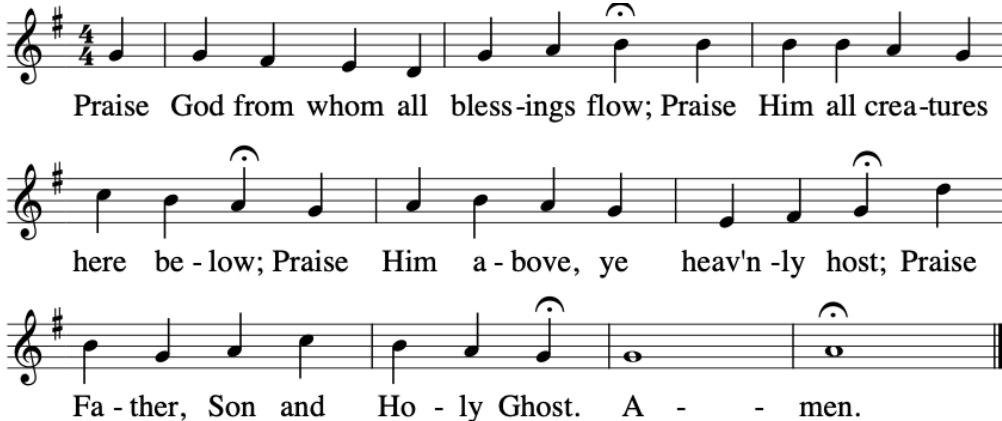
Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

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.

## Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth



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

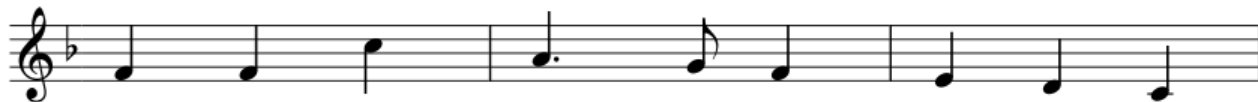
In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lyrics: Joachim Neander; Music: 17th Century German Tune



1.Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty the king of cre - a - tion!  
2.Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth.  
3.Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend thee.  
4.Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea so  
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here  
All that hath life and breath, come now with



help and sal - - va - - tion!  
gent - - ly sus - - tain - - eth!  
dai - - ly at - - tend thee.  
prai - - ses be - - fore him.



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw  
Hast thou not seen how all your long - ings hath  
Pon - der a new what the Al - migh - ty can  
Let the a men sound from his his - migh - ty peo - ple a -



near. Praise him in glad a - dor - a - tion!  
been, gran - ted in what he or - dain - eth?  
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.  
gain, Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

## Prayer of Invocation

## Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 2:17-24

But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

## Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

**Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls. Amen.**

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.

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

## Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy." and "Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord."

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace and a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

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.

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William Runyan; Lyrics: Thomas Chisholm



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;



Thou chang - est not, thy comp - pas - sions they fail not;



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]



# The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Tim Davis]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amid the conflicts of this passing world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

From pride, selfishness, greed and anger; from passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ as well as war among nations:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for peace (silence). Amen.

As you have blessed our nation so richly, we pray for the President and all in authority over us, that they would lead with wisdom and truth:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for those who lead (silence). Amen.

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for all who struggle with the gospel (silence). 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 all who suffer: the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

**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]

Psalm 2

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 23:23-24

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -  
joice. From world to world, the joy shall ring, - "The Lord om -

*Chorus*

ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! - Lord of  
Lords, An-cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his  
Praise! - All your - days, all your - days.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lord is King'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two staves of music with lyrics underneath. The second system has two staves of music with lyrics underneath. The third system has three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music is written in a simple, melodic style suitable for a hymn.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,  
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must; The judge of all the earth is just;  
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

## New Testament Reading

Romans 14:13-15:7

**13** Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. **14** I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. **15** For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. **16** So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. **17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. **19** So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

**20** Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **21** It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. **22** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. **23** But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**15** We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. **3** For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God

of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**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 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.]

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.

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

## **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 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



Ho - ly - Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it,



Ho - ly Com - mun - ion, Three in One.



Come with Your peace, with Your in - vi - ta - tion,



bind us to - get - her in ho - ly - love.



# Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



O how he takes \_ the cross, O how he lifts \_ it up



to take the weight from us. O how he pays \_ the cost,



O how he drinks the cup, to make a place \_ for us.

## CHORUS



Take us, \_ O Lord, and all we have known. Shape us, O



Lord, and form us in - to your own. Take eve - ry heart and



know eve-ry sin. Break us, O Lord, that we may be whole a - gain.

Hear how he breaks the curse, hear how he cries aloud,  
Hear how his voice resounds. O how he forms the words,  
O how he cries them out, "See it is finished now!"

How deep the wounds he wears, how dark the scars he shows,  
How well the name he knows; written upon his palms,  
O what a name to find. That name before him: Mine!

## 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.

**Midtown Institute:** During 2021 we are going to hold a training class for people interested in taking on more leadership in our church, whether as a ministry team leader, small group leader, elder or deacon, or if you just want to be better prepared to serve Christ in your home and work. The class will cover our church’s beliefs, perspectives on ministry, personal character and spiritual life. We will meet 20 times during the year and you’ll need to do a good bit of reading/preparation. We will set the meeting days/times once we have a list of participants. Please let Charles know if you want to be a part.

**Men’s Book Group:** Will meet this week at Nick Dunlap’s home (4117 E Pima St.) on Tuesday at 7:00.

**Women’s Bible Study:** will resume in March.

**Men of Faith Conference:** We are joining with several other churches to hold a 4 session video/discussion conference led by Paul Tripp. The meetings will be on the last Saturday mornings of January-April from 7:30-9:00 at Catalina Foothills Church. It’s free but you need to sign up so we can plan for food and seating. Let Charles know if you’re in.



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

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