

MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

## Third Sunday After Epiphany

01.22.2023

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**

"The sixth deadly sin is named by the church acedia or sloth. In the world it calls itself tolerance; but in hell it is called despair. It is the accomplice of the other sins and their worst punishment. It is the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, loves nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive only because there is nothing it would die for. We have known it far too well for many years. The only thing perhaps that we have not known about it is that it is a mortal sin."

—Dorothy Sayers

# The Word

## Call to Worship

Psalm 99:9

Exalt the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the Lord our God is holy!

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 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 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

1 John 1:5-6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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.

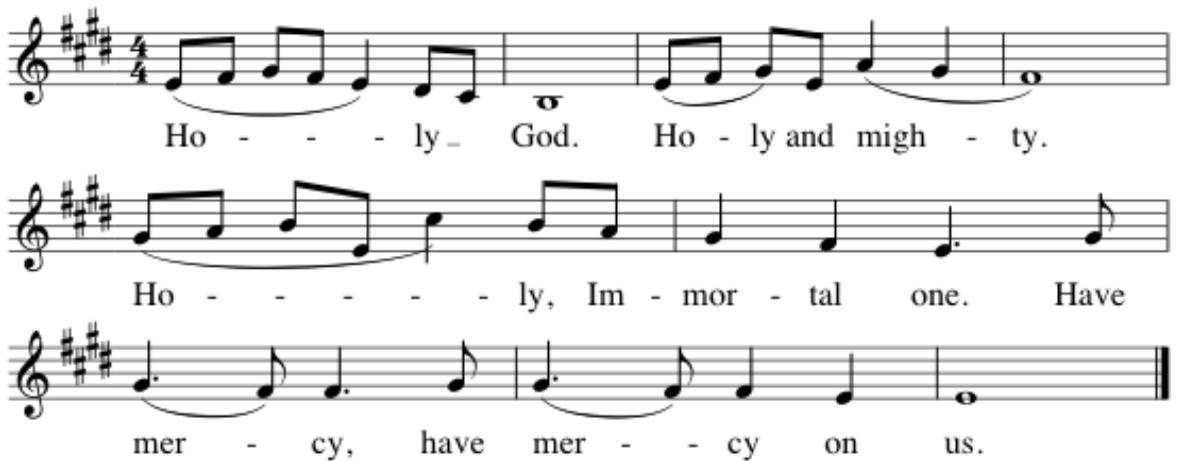
## Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.)

## Trisagion



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.

Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Music: Fernando Ortega

## Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.

# Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lyrics: Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music: Christopher Miner

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day'.

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the  
sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a  
home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the  
burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess;  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

# 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.

May God be gracious to us and bless us

**and make his face to shine upon us.**

(Silent prayer for God to bless this congregation)

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

That your way may be known on earth,

**your saving power among all nations.**

(Silent prayer for a display of God's saving power here in Tucson)

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you!**

(Silent prayer for our non-Christian friends to begin to follow Jesus)

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer and grieve,

**We ask for your healing peace.**

(Silent prayer for all who suffer.)

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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: Stephanie Barrett]

Proverbs 6:6-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 21:1-8

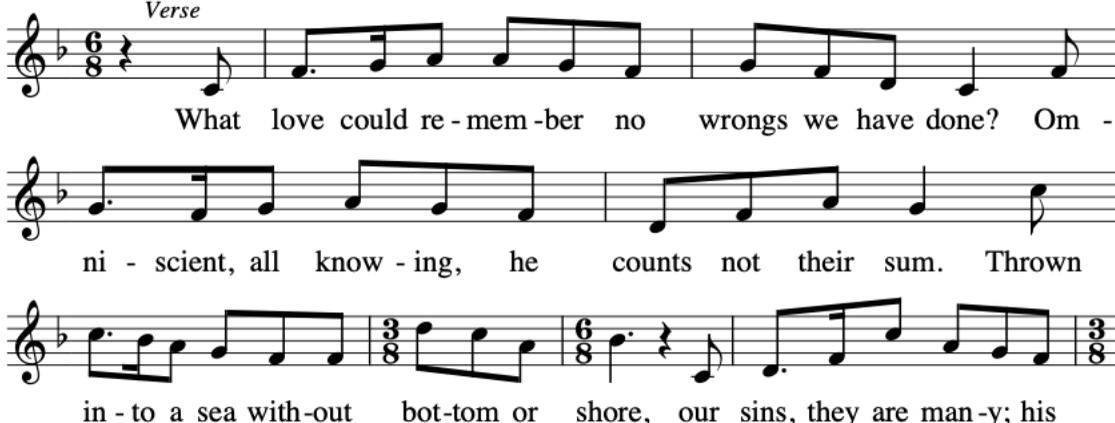
Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# 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  
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]

## New Testament Reading

2 Peter 1:3-15

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. <sup>13</sup>I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup>since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup>And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

**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.]

## **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.]

# We Are Not Overcome

—Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell & Robert Heiskell



Flesh will fail \_ and bones will break; thieves will steal, \_ the earth will



shake. Night will fall, \_ the light will fade; \_ the Lord will give, and take a-

## Refrain



way; Be-cause of His great \_ love, we are not o-ver-come!



Be-cause of His great \_ love we are not o-ver-come!

Put no trust in the earth, in the sod you stand upon.

Flowers fade into dust;

The Lord will make a place for us. [Refrain]

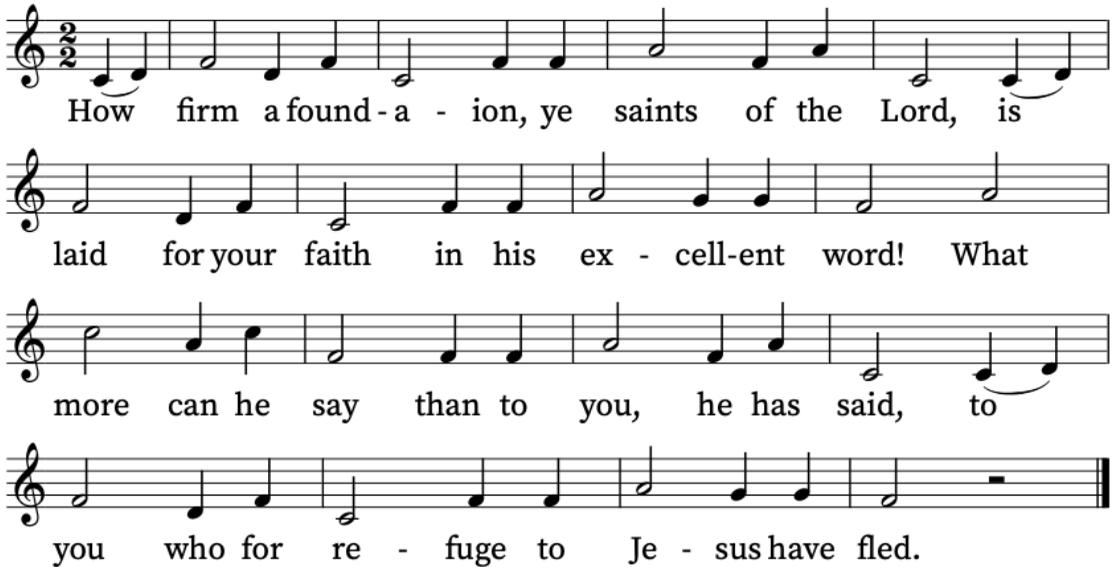
Have no fear for your life, Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!

Bear the yoke of love and death;

The Lord will give all life and breath. [Refrain]

# How Firm A Foundation

Music & Lyrics: Traditional



How firm a found-a - ion, ye saints of the Lord, is  
laid for your faith in his ex - cell-ent word! What  
more can he say than to you, he has said, to  
you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled.

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

## Benediction

## 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)). ----->>>

**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.



**Quarterly Church Prayer Meeting:** Sunday morning, January 29th, at 10:30 - 11:30 @ the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave). Everyone is welcome.

**Pastor:** Charles Garland  
**Music Director:** Sarah Lewis  
**Nursery Director:** Sami Byker  
**Church Planting Resident:** Nick Davis  
**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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