

MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Third Sunday in Advent

12.12.2021

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**

Jesus came to raise the dead. The only qualification for the gift of the Gospel is to be dead. You don't have to be smart. You don't have to be good. You don't have to be wise. You don't have to be wonderful. You don't have to be anything.... You just have to be dead. That's it.

—Robert Capon

# The Word

## **Call to Worship—**

[Ramey Rash & Annalyse Fennema]

## Lighting of the Shepherd's Candle

The first candle in the Advent wreath, the Prophet's Candle, reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come.

The second candle, the Peace Candle, reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall.

The third candle reminds us of the joy of the shepherds as they heard the good news of Jesus' arrival, for: "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:20).

As we light the Shepherd's Candle we remember that it wasn't the rich and famous who came to worship Jesus that first Christmas Eve, but poor shepherds. Through Jesus Christ, God invites us, as his children, those who are "poor in spirit," to come into His presence and worship Him.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

# Joy to the World

Music & Lyrics: Issac Watts



Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth re - cieve her King!



Let ev - 'ry - heart - pre - pare - Him - room - and



heav'n and na - ture - sing. and - heav'n and na - ture -



sing, and - heav'n - and heav'n - and na - ture sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## Prayer of Invocation

# Call to Confession of Sin

Luke 1:51-54

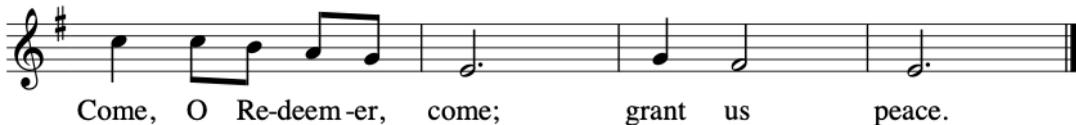
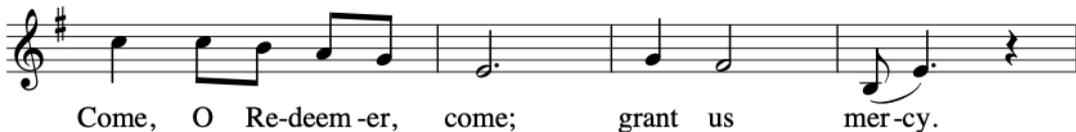
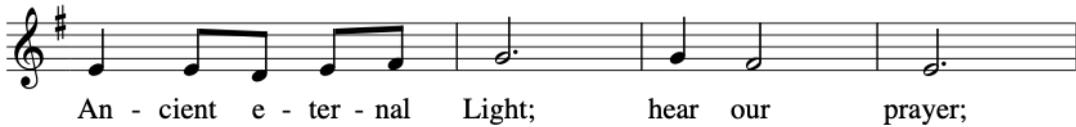
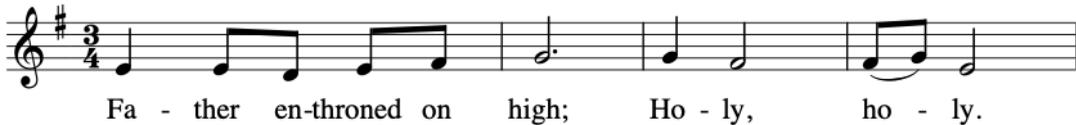
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

## Confession of Sin

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

## Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega



Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,  
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.  
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68-69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited  
and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn  
of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

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.

## Once In David's Royal City

Lyrics & Music: Cecil Frances Alexander



Once in roy - al Da-vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,



Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger for his bed:



Ma-ry was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on, to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

## **The Prayers of the People**

[Led by William Price]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

**We ask you to restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. We ask you to destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. We pray that you would protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.**

(Pray silently that God would deliver you from evil.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into the world to bring us peace with God:

**We pray for peace between nations in Your world; We pray that this congregation might live in your peace together; We ask you to come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.**

(Pray silently for God to bring peace to the earth.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

**We pray for our friends who do not yet know you; We pray for the deepening of our faith in the gospel of grace.**

(Pray silently for the spread of the good news.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into the world to destroy death

and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

**We pray for comfort for those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.**

(Pray silently for those who are suffering.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

We pray now in the words you 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**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

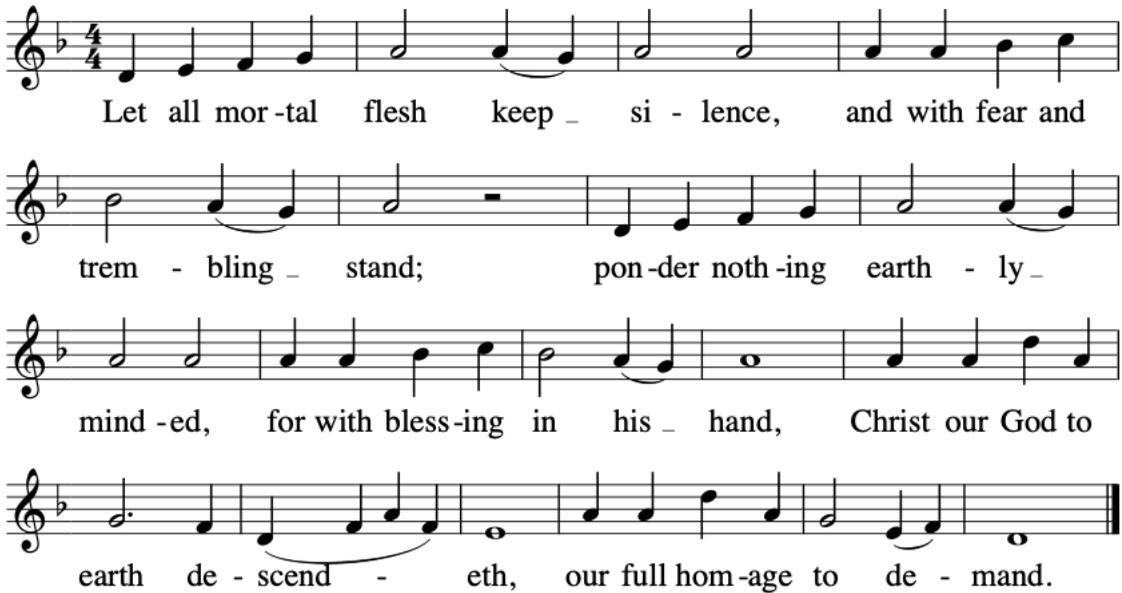
# New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Let all mor-tal flesh keep - si - lence, and with fear and  
trem - bling - stand; pon-der noth-ing earth - ly -  
mind -ed, for with bless-ing in his - hand, Christ our God to  
earth de - scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Nick Davis

# 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.**

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.

## 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.]

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Music & Lyrics: Polish Folk Carol and Isaac Wardell, Kate Bluett, Paul Zach

In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, hea-ven's high - est love come  
down. For the poor, you left your glo - ry and you laid a - side your  
crown. Weak and help - less, here you slum - ber in a  
sta - ble with your mo - ther as the shep - herds ga - ther  
'round Do you they know you've left your crown?

Infant holy, Infant Lowly, You who once held heaven's pow'r,  
Now You be here, cold and hungry in the silent midnight hour.  
With Your parents wrapped in worry, still exhausted from the journey.  
You were helpless in that hour, Yet You set aside Your pow'r.

Infant Holy, Infant lowly, King of kings and Lord of lords.  
You have come to us with nothing, as the poorest of the poor.  
So we come to You in wonder, see You helpless as You slumber,  
And we lay our gift before Christ the Savior, weak and poor.

## What Child Is This?

Lyrics: William C. Dix; Music: Greensleeves



What child is this who laid to rest; on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing? Whom



an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep herds watch are keep-ing?



This, this \_ is Christ the King, whom shep-hards guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste \_ to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Ma - ry.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross he bore for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.

## 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.

**Monday Soccer:** Monday at 5:00 at the U of A Mall.

**Men’s Book Group:** We are reading John Owen’s book, The Mortification of Sin, this month. The meeting is Tuesday, 12/14 at Matt McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas) at 7pm.

**Ladies Prayer Group:** Our next meeting will be at Shelly Gauger’s, 525 S. 4th Avenue, at 1:30 pm. December 21st.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** We are going to meet at Himmel Park for our Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm. We’ll all need to bring chairs and phones for the song lyrics. Park at the north end of the park and we’ll meet between the library and the tennis courts. Sundown is 5:25 which should be right around candle lighting time.

**Midtown Banquet:** Mark your calendars for Friday evening, January 14th. We are going to have a dinner at Culinary Dropout and celebrate and anticipate the near future for our church.

**Midtown Hike:** Saturday, December 18, in the Redington Road area. We'll meet at 8:45 am at the Agua Caliente Hill South Trailhead (3798 N Cam Cantil #3600, Tucson, AZ 85749) and then be on the trail by 9am. Please contact JD Doak at [jd.doak0@gmail.com](mailto:jd.doak0@gmail.com) or 530-601-1960 if you have any questions.

**Midtown Young Adults** are having a white elephant gift exchange on Dec 18th, at 7pm at 1909 N Park Ave! Wear an ugly sweater to be a part of our "Ugly Sweater Christmas Contest" and bring a gift around \$15-20 to exchange!

**Pastor:** Charles Garland  
**Minister in Residence:** Nick Davis  
**Music Director:** Sarah Lewis  
**RUF Staff:** Dan & Brittany Smith  
**RUF Intern:** Rebekah Taylor

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