

MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

Pentecost Sunday

05.23.2021

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 tongues of fire, miniature glory-clouds, resting on each disciple of Jesus at Pentecost, sealed the presence of the Spirit of glory and of God wherever believers might be scattered. The God who was with Abraham in Mesopotamia, with Joseph in Egypt, and with Moses in the Sinai goes with his scattered messengers.

— Dennis Johnson

Solid joys and lasting pleasures none but Zion's children know.

— John Newton

# 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.

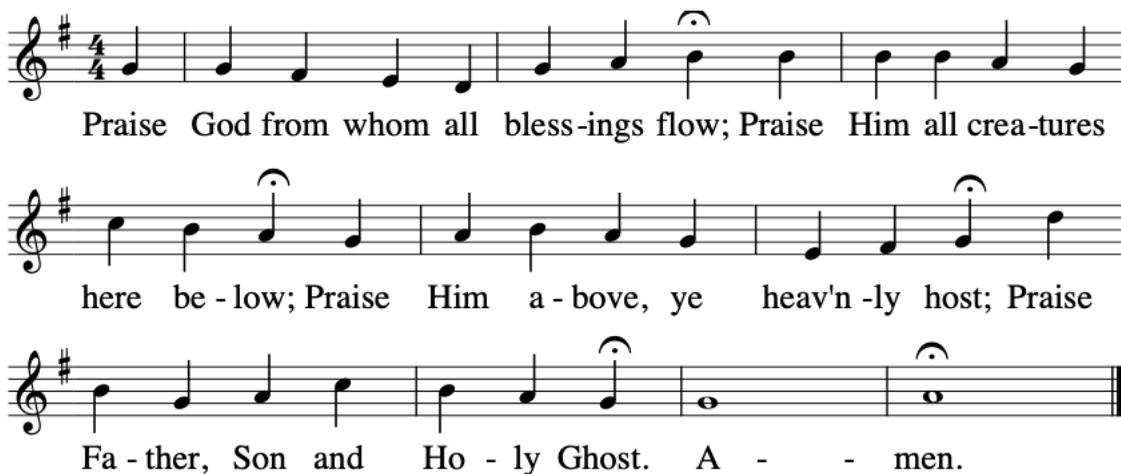
## Call to Worship

Revelation 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory

## 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.

# Rescuer (Good News)

Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

*Chorus*

He's our res-cu-er! He's our res-cu\_er! We are free from sin for-ev-er-  
more. Oh how sweet the sound. Oh how grace a - bounds, We will

*Verse*

praise the Lord, our res - cu - er! There is good news for the cap - tive;  
good news for the shamed. There is good news for the one who walked a -  
way. There is good news for the doubt - er; the one re-li-gion failed, for the  
good Lord has come to seek and save. \_ *to Chorus*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor;  
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.  
He is pasture for the weary; rest for those who strive,  
For the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

*Bridge*

to Chorus So come and be chain - less. Come and be  
 fear - less. Come to the foot of Cal - va -  
 ry. There is re - demp - tion, for ev - 'ry af -  
 flic - tion. Here at the foot of Cal - va - ry.

## 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.

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.



## 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.

## Thy Mercy My God

--Lyrics: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

Thy mer-cy, my God, is the theme \_ of my song, the  
joy of my heart and the boast \_ of my tongue; Thy  
free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath  
won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.  
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

## The Prayers of the People

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

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.

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 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.

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.**

## New Testament Reading

[Reader: Anna Rich]

Titus 3:3-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:24-28

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Lyrics: Reginald Heber; Music: John Dykes



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci-ful and migh - ty!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Tri - ni - ty.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who were and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

# Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. <sup>2</sup>I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" <sup>3</sup>I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. <sup>4</sup>I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. <sup>5</sup>I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>6</sup>I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup>I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

<sup>9</sup>So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup>And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup>Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

**Confession of Faith**

**Membership Vows**

**Stephanie Barrett  
Carl & Shelly Gauger  
Jason Jorg  
Evelyn Lynch**

**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 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.]

# God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not  
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the  
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

*Chorus*  
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the  
light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing  
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

*Bridge*

The musical score is written in 6/8 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of six lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not'. The second line contains 'see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the'. The third line contains 'way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.'. The fourth line is labeled 'Chorus' and contains 'Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the'. The fifth line contains 'light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing'. The sixth line contains 'on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.'. There is a double bar line with repeat dots at the end of the sixth line. A 'Bridge' section is indicated above the fifth line.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,  
But evil cannot conquer me.  
Your rod and staff, they protect me;  
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.  
This tiny ship that carries me,  
It is not yet, but it will be;  
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

# Jesus What a Friend For Sinners

Arrangement: Luke Smith

The musical score is written on five staves in a 9/8 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Je - sus! What a friend for sin - ners! — Je - sus! Lo - ver  
of my soul. — Friends may fail me foes as - sail me, — He my  
Sav - ior makes me whole. — Hal - le - lu — jah! What a  
Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! What a friend! — Sav - ing,  
help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, — He is with me to the end. —

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He my strength my vict'ry wins.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll;  
Even when my heart is breaking, He, my Comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus I do now receive him, More than all in him I find;  
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his and he is 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:** Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, May 30, from 9:00-10:30 on the McReynold’s patio (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

**Monday Soccer:** Monday at 5:00 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

**Women’s Sermon Discussion:** Saturday mornings @ 10:00 at Dana McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). We’ll discuss the Ecclesiastes sermons referring to Charles’ sermons and William Price’s book [As Far As the Curse is Found](#).

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

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