



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

02.07.2021

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 aren't having a nursery for a couple of more weeks. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you, though.

Reflection

"When you've realized that you don't even know yourself, that you're an enigma to yourself, and when you keep looking inward only to find an unplumbable depth of mystery and secrets and parts of yourself that are loathsome, then Scripture isn't received as a list of commands: instead, it breaks into your life as a light from outside that shows you the infinite God who loves you at the bottom of the abyss."

--James K.A. Smith

"Resting in the love of God doesn't squelch ambition; it fuels it with a different fire. I don't have to strive to get God to love me; rather, because God loves me unconditionally, I'm free to take risks and launch out into the deep."

--James K.A. Smith

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

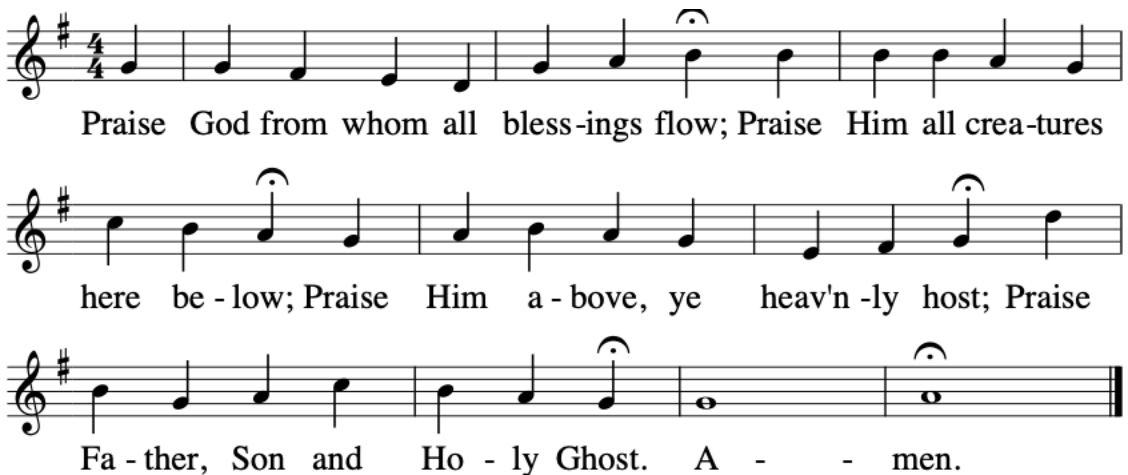
Psalm 57:9-11

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

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.

Doxology

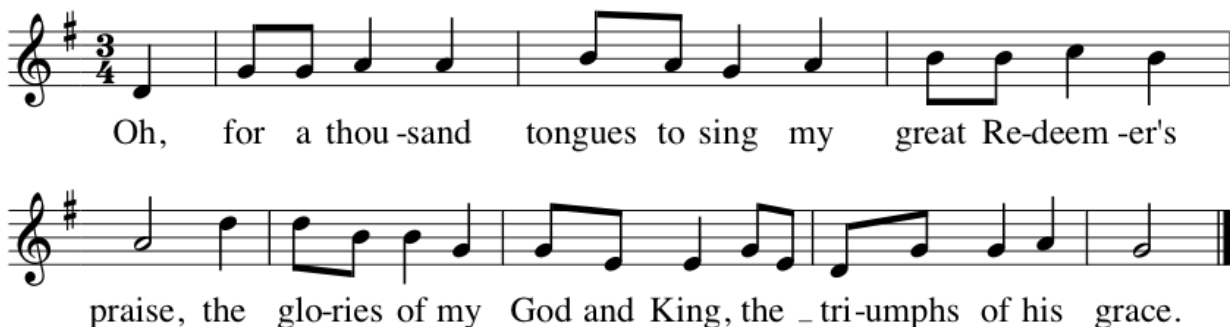
Music: The Old One Hundredth



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.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first four measures of the melody, and the second staff contains the remaining six measures, ending with a double bar line.

Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's
praise, the glo-ries of my God and King, the - tri-umphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from 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.]

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know that you care for us and cherish us. We know that you empower us and give us hope. We know that you provide us with direction, comfort, and peace.

We confess that we have not loved you as you have asked us to love. We take you for granted and fail to acknowledge your good gifts. We allow the opinions of others to drive us even to the point of disobedience. We do not want others to know that we follow you. We look to the wisdom of world to guide as opposed to your Word.

We confess our sin with the bold confidence that you will continue to love us. You will not reject. You will not abandon. You will forgive.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord.

The image shows 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 notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with stems, and rests.

Assurance of Forgiveness

John 12:46-47

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

He Will Hold Me Fast

Lyrics: Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music: Matt Merker



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt-er would pre-vail, he will hold me fast.
Pre-cious in his ho-ly sight, he will hold me fast.
Just-ice has been sat-is-fied; he will hold me fast.



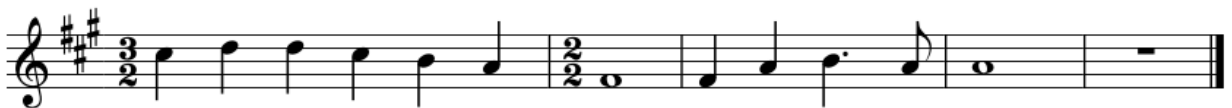
I could nev-er keep my hold through life's fear-ful path
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom-is-es shall last;
Raised with him to end-less life; he will hold me fast;



for my love is oft-en cold; he must hold me fast.
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
'Til our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!



He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.



For my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you commanded the apostles to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every person.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a ready will to obey your word.

Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

May our children follow you all of their lives.

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.

Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.

(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)

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.

O God, everlasting Father, your kingdom comes by your power.

We pray that you would bring your kingdom to us.

We pray that you would bring your kingdom through us.

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples to pray, 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

Psalm 20:1-5

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-5

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus I My Cross have Taken

Lyrics: Henry Lyte; Music: Bill Moore



Je-sus I my cross have tak-en, all to leave and fol - low Thee.



Na-ked, poor, de-spied for-sak-en. Thou from hence my all shall be.



Per-ish ev-ery fond am-bi-tion, all I've sought or hoped or known.



Yet how rich is my con - di - tion,



God and heav'n are still my — own.

Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me; Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Soul, then know thy full salvation Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee, Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

New Testament Reading

Romans 15:22-33

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

—Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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 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.]

Let This Heart Not Wander

Lyrics & Music: Eric J. Marshall

Let my eyes see no-thing, let my eyes see no-thing but your
glo - ry, my Lord. _ Let my eyes see no-thing, let my
eyes see no-thing but your glo - ry, my Lord. _

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

May I always linger, May I always linger,
In your presence, my Lord. (repeat)

I will ever praise you, I will ever praise you,
You are worthy, my Lord. (repeat)

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Lyrics: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner

4 On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and
7 cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and
11 hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am
14 bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am
bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a 4-measure rest, then begins the melody. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the melody with a double bar line.

All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful
shore; Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

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.

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.

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.

Women’s Bible Study: will resume in March.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

Men’s Book Group: We are reading John Updike’s Rabbit Run in February, and the meeting is this Tuesday evening, 2/9 at 7:00 at Nick Dunlap’s home (4117 E. Pima St.)

Women’s Book Group: We are reading Salmon Rushdie’s Haroun and the Sea of Stories. The meeting is at Melissa McRae’s home (409 E Lester St.) this Thursday evening, 2/11 at 7:00.

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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