



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

04.14.2024

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. All of our kiddos will meet in the Hamilton House. Check in is at the west end of the courtyard. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

Joy is that deep settled confidence that God is in control of every area of my life!

—Paul Sailhamert

The birth of Jesus, when not encased in sentimentality and romance, represents a powerful challenge. The opposition does not sit idly by and take the news of his arrival casually. It understands that the stakes are high and, thus, the response is violent and destructive."

--Charles B. Cousar

The Word

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

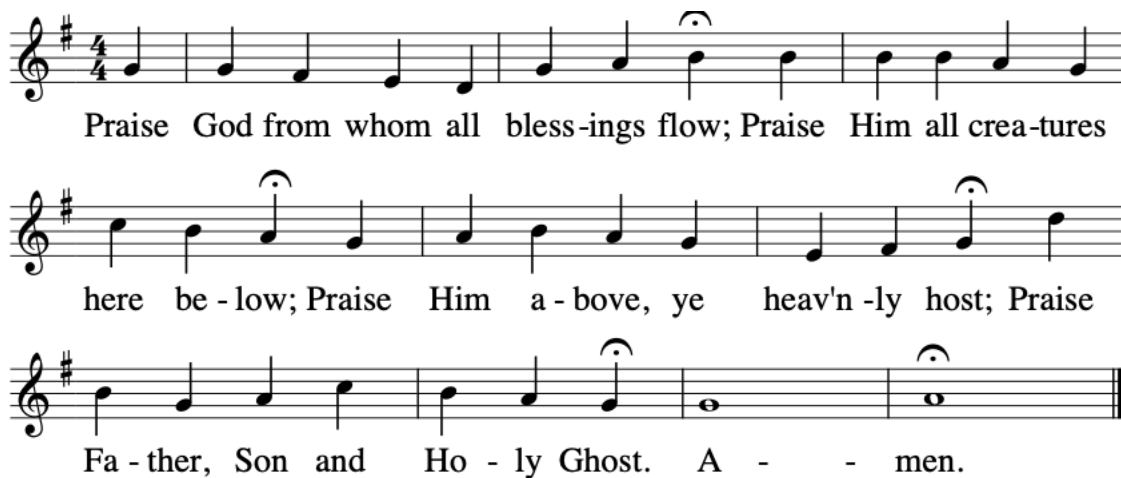
Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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



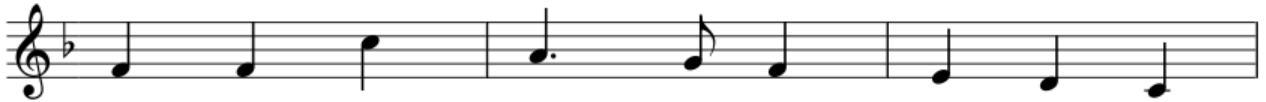
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

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

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.

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Confession of Sin

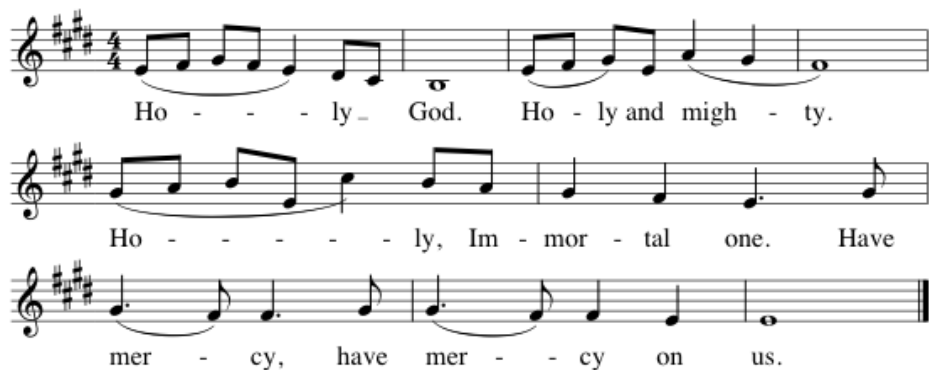
[Please pray aloud together]

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.
Ho - - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have
mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Lyrics & Music: Robert Lowry

5 What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing-but the blood of Je - sus!

9 What can make me whole a-gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

13 O, pre-cious is the flow, that makes me white as sn - ow!

No o-ther fount I know. No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Nothing But the Blood of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts at measure 5, the second at measure 9, and the third at measure 13. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

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.

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Frances Willberg]

Romans 8:28-30

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:28-36

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Behold

Lyrics & Music: Taylor Leonhardt



1.The emp - ty filled, the wound - ed healed, — the brok - en back to-gether,
2.The lost _ re-turn, the voice - less heard, — the mourn-er now re-joic-ing.



The poor _ are blessed, the wear - y rest, — we will dance for - ev - er.
The moun-tains shake, the world a - wake, — cre-a-tion all com-pos-ing.



The blind - ed see, — the chained are free, — the doubt-ful now be-liev-er.
The sad _ un-true, the earth re-newed, — the song has found its sing-er.

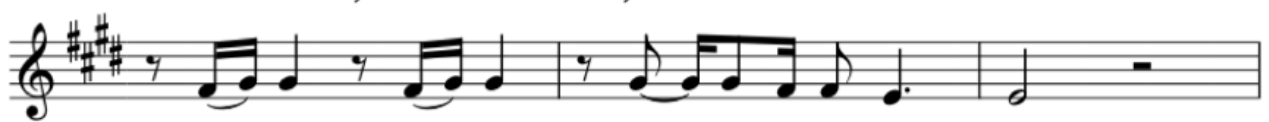


The out - cast known, the or - phan home, — You are my Re-deem-er.
The dark-ness light, the dead a - live, — You are my Re-deem-er.

Chorus



Be - hold, Be - hold, be - hold what love can do.



Be - hold, Be - hold, He's mak-ing all things new.

Bridge



We've been struck down, we're not de-destroyed. We've sown in tears, we'll reap in joy.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 1:15-2:10

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews' children.” ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the

Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

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.**

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 one of the aisles. 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 same aisle.]

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is his grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? (Chorus)

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore. (Chorus)

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

O love that will not let me go I rest
my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back
the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths
its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, that
morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be.

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). —>>



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.

Ladies Happy Hour by the pool at the McReynolds home (1241 E. Sobre Lomas) on Friday April 19th at 5:30. Come enjoy a beautiful spring evening together on the back patio. Please bring a simple appetizer or drink to share.

Men's Book group: Tuesday May 14 at the McReynolds' at 7pm ([1241 E Sobre Lomas](#)). The book for April is C.S. Lewis' Miracles. Any men are welcome to come.

Quarterly Prayer Meeting Sunday, May 5th @10:30am. Location coming soon!

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Children's Director: Annalyse Rash
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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