



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

01.17.2021

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

I believe that what separates humanity from everything else in the world— spaghetti, binder paper, deep-sea creatures, edelweiss and Mount McKinley—is that humanity alone has the capacity at any given moment to commit all possible sins. Even those of us who try to live a good and true life remain as far away from grace as the Hillside strangler or any demon who ever tried to poison the village well.

—Douglass Copeland

Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for yesterday we were dead.

—Russell Moore

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-3

Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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.

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.

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.

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove _ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love _ and all his great -ness show!



Praise him for his no -ble deeds! _ Praise him for his match -less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro -ceeds, let earth and hea -ven a - dore, let

Chorus



earth and hea -ven a - dore! Praise the name _ of Christ, cel - e -



brate _ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord _ of life!



We'll sing the sto -ry of hon -or and glo -ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
We'll sing the story of honor and glory, and praise the name!
[Chorus]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Confession of Sin

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

Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God _ be _mer-ci - ful to me, On Thy grace I rest my plea:



plen _teous in com-pas-sion thou, blot out my trans -gres-sions now.



Wash me make me pure with - in.



Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Psalm 51 (Continues)

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgement just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.
From my sins, oh, hide thy face: Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from thee; let Thy spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart: Steadfast make my willing heart.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Nikki Smith]

Isaiah 49:5-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

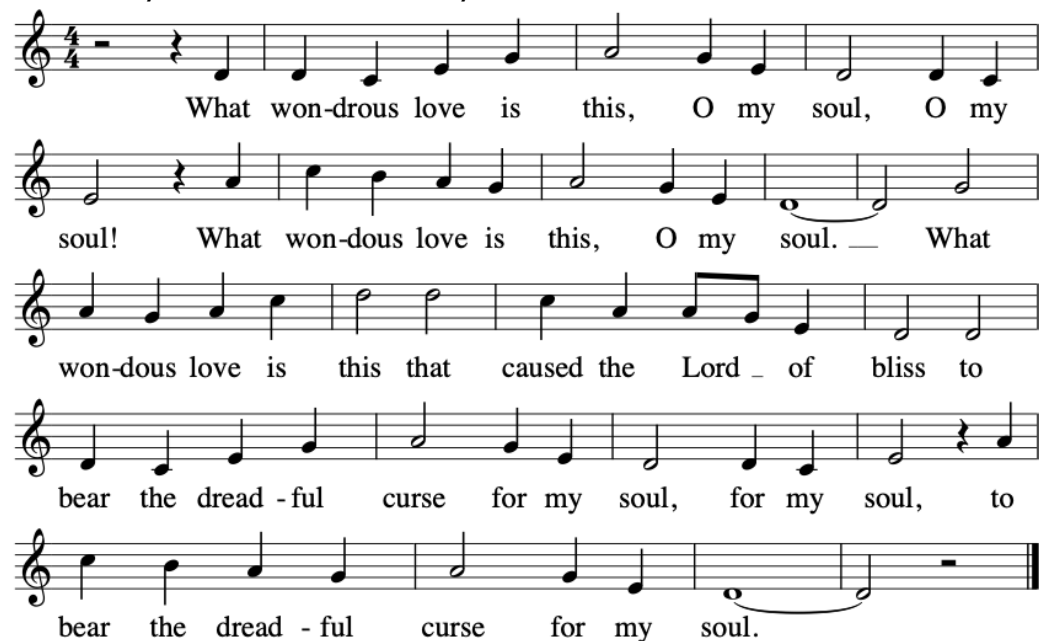
Mark 13:24-27

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

What Wondrous Love is This

Music & Lyrics: American Folk Hymn



What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
soul! What won-dous love is this, O my soul. — What
won-dous love is this that caused the Lord — of bliss to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

New Testament Reading

Romans 15:8-21

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, **9** and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

10 And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the
Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. **15** But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God **16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **17** In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. **18** For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, **19** by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the

ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**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.]

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.

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.]

Jesus I Come

Music: Greg Thompson; Lyrics: William Sleeper

Out of my bon - dage, sor-row and night, Je - sus I come;

Je - sus I come. _ In - to thy free - dom, glad-ness and light

Je - sus I come to thee. _ Out of my sick-ness in - to thy

health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth, out of my

sin _ and in - to thy - self, Je - sus I _ come to thee. _

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus I come to Thee.

Rescuer (Good News)

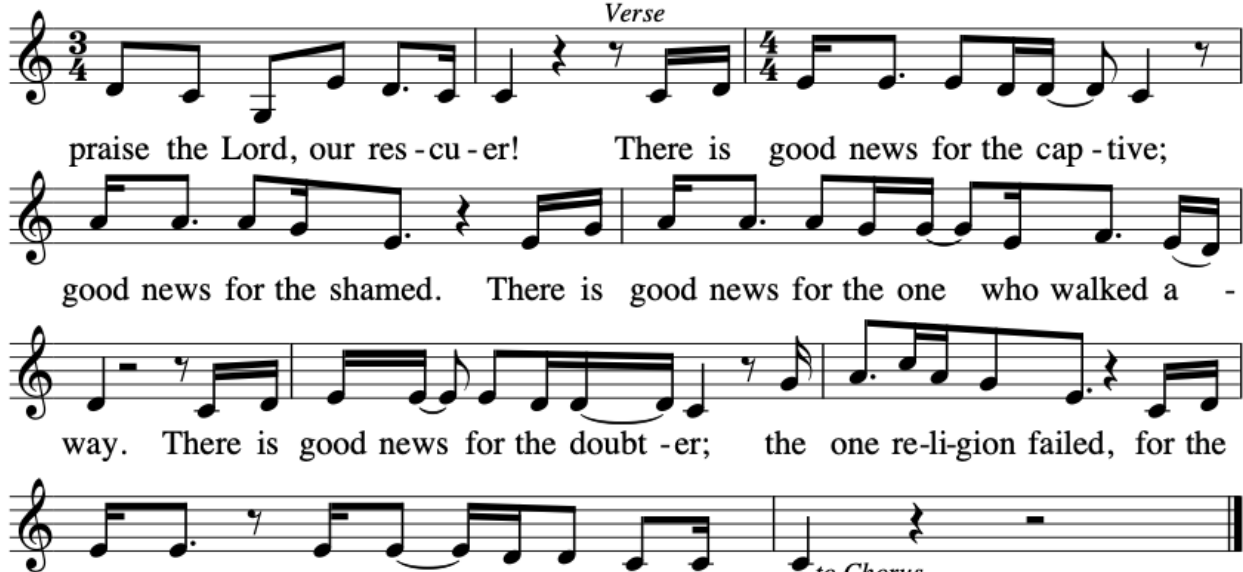
Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

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.

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.

Men of Faith Conference: We are joining with several other churches to hold a 4 session video/discussion conference led by Paul Tripp. The meetings will be on the last Saturday mornings of January-April from 7:30-9:00 at Catalina Foothills Church. It’s free but you need to sign up so we can plan for food and seating. Let Charles know if you’re in.

Marriage Conference: with John Cox this Friday from 6-9 pm and Saturday from 8:30-11:30 am. It’s held at Catalina Foothills Church and its free.

International Student Ministry: If you’re interested in learning about hospitality for International students at UofA, please let Charles know. We are going to have a training once we have a few folks interested.

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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