



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
09.12.2021

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

It's one thing to develop a nostalgia for home while you're boozing with Yankee writers in Martha's Vineyard or being chased by the bulls in Pamplona. It's something else to go home and visit with the folks in Reed's drugstore on the square and actually listen to them. The reason you can't go home again is not because the down-home folks are mad at you--they're not, don't flatter yourself, they couldn't care less--but because once you're in orbit and you return to Reed's drugstore on the square, you can stand no more than fifteen minutes of the conversation before you head for the woods, head for the liquor store, or head back to Martha's Vineyard, where at least you can put a tolerable and saving distance between you and home. Home may be where the heart is but it's no place to spend Wednesday afternoon.

--Walker Percy

The exiled Jews of the Old Testament were of course geographically displaced. More than that, however, the exiles experienced a loss of the structured, reliable world which gave them meaning and coherence, and they found themselves in a context where their most treasured and trusted symbols of faith were mocked, trivialized, or dismissed. Exile is not primarily geographical, but it is social, moral, and cultural.

--Walter Brueggemann

We're four misfits who don't belong together, we're playing for other misfits. They're the outcasts right at the back of the room. We're pretty sure they don't belong either. We belong to them.

--Freddie Mercury

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 107:1-3

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

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.

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;
pros-trate ly-ing, suf-fring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
Vic-t'ry gain-ing, life ob - tain -ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever
Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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]

Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls.

Amen.

[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.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

The Love of God

Lyrics & Music: Matt Fredrich Martin Lehman

The love of God is great-er _ far than tongue or pen can ev-er
tell. It goes be-yond the high-est star, and reach-es to _ the low-est _
hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care. God gave his Son _ to _
win. His err-ing child, he re-con - ciled, and par-doned from _ his _
Refrain
sin. O love of God, how rich and _ pure; how mea-sure - less _ and
strong. It shall for - ev - more en - dure the saints and an - gels _ song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Tho' stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men, who here, refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints' and angels' song. [Refrain]

Sacrament of Baptism

Joan Taylor Lewis

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.

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,

That we all may be one.

(Please pray silently for the unity of the church.)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who lead and guide your church

That they may be faithful and diligent servants of you.

(Please pray silently for all who lead the church.)

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

(Please pray silently for the nations of the world.)

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

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake

That we may know the joy of living for you.

(Please pray silently that we would follow God in our lives.)

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.

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble

That they may be delivered from their distress.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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: Raegan Watkins]

1 Peter 1:1-2

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-36

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Music & Lyrics: Robert Robinson

5 Come, thou fount of ev'-ry bles-sing, tune my heart to sing thy
9 grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est
12 praise. Teach me _ some me - lo-dious - son - net sung by _
15 fla - ming tongues a - bove. Praise the mount, I'm fixed up -
pon it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 29:1-7

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ² This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. ³ The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:⁴ "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.

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.**

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.]

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Lyrics: William Williams; Music: Jeremy Casella

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one flat) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim'. The second staff continues: 'through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art'. The third staff: 'might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of'. The fourth staff: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of'. The fifth staff: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final cadence.

Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim
through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art
might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

ENDING



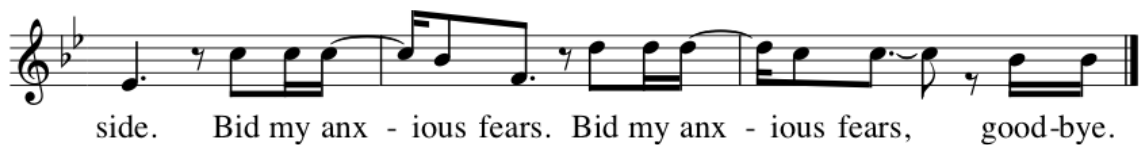
Land me



safe on Ca-naan's side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx -



- ious fears. Land me safe on Ca - naan's -



side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx - ious fears, good-bye.

We Will Feast In the House of Zion

Lyrics and Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther, We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-TECT-ed, ga - thered up."

In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the Faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom!

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.

Prayer before the service: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, September 19, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 6:00 at the U of A Mall.

Men’s Book Group: This Tuesday @ 7:00 at the McReynold’s. We’ll be discussing Calvin’s Institutes, Book 3.

Women’s Bible Study: Begins this Wednesday evening at 6:00 for light dinner, and 7:00 for the study at the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Yunuen Jankowski will be leading a discussion of Larry Crabb’s book Shattered Dreams.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

RUF Front Porch Bible Study: Tuesdays @8:00pm at Koffler 216.

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

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