



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

11.14.2021

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

I drink not from mere joy in wine nor to scoff at faith—no, only to forget myself for a moment, that only do I want of intoxication, that alone.

--Omar Khayyam

Modern man is drinking and drugging himself out of awareness, or he spends his time shopping, which is the same thing. As awareness calls for types of heroic dedication this his culture no longer provides for him, society contrives to help him forget. Or, alternatively, he buries himself in psychology in the belief that awareness all by itself will be some kind of magical cure for his problems.

--Ernest Becker

What we have lost... is a full sense of the power of God — to recruit people who have made terrible choices; to invade the most hopeless lives and fill them with light; to sneak up on people who are thinking about lunch, not God, and smack them up side the head with glory.

—Barbara Brown Taylor

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 118:8-9

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

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 bles-sings 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.

All Creatures of our God and King

Lyrics: St. Francis of Assisi; Music: William Draper

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Creatures of our God and King'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/2 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us'. The second staff continues with 'sing, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en'. The third staff continues with 'beam, thou sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam, O - praise him, O -'. The fourth staff concludes with 'praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!'. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and a fermata over the final 'Al-le - lu - ia!'.

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning find a voice! O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care! O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 64:6-7

We have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

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,

I worry because I forget your wisdom.

I resent because I forget your mercy.

I covet because I forget your beauty.

I sin because I forget your holiness.

I fear because I forget your sovereignty.

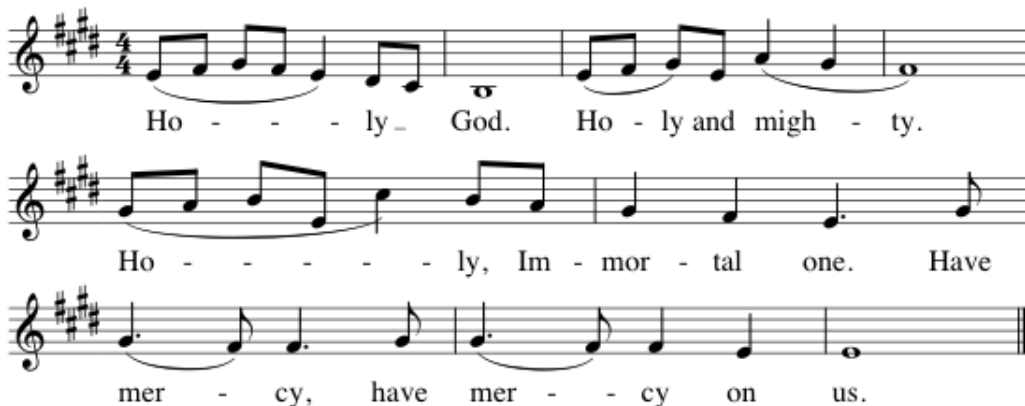
You always remember me. Help me to remember you.

Amen.

(You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.)

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and might - ty.

Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 63:16

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

We Are Not Overcome

—Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell & Robert Heiskell



Flesh will fail _ and bones will break; thieves will steal, _ the earth will



shake. Night will fall, _ the light will fade; _ the Lord will give, and take a-

Refrain



way; Be-cause of His great _ love, we are not o-ver-come!



Be-cause of His great _ love we are not o-ver-come!

Put no trust in the earth, in the sod you stand upon.

Flowers fade into dust;

The Lord will make a place for us. [Refrain]

Have no fear for your life, Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!

Bear the yoke of love and death;

The Lord will give all life and breath. [Refrain]

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.

Most gracious God, you have promised to reveal
your glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for your church.

Bless all the ministers of your word

and sacraments, and unite all

Christians in the bonds of holy faith,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for the Church.). Amen.

Lord God of our fathers,

you have promised to take care of our every need,

Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons.

Grant all in authority over us

wisdom and strength to do your will

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for our world.). Amen.

Most merciful Father,

comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.

We pray for all who are distressed:

the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved,

and those afflicted in body and mind.

Comfort and relieve them according to your will,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for all who suffer.). Amen.

[Led by Nick Davis]

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.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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: Nikki Smith]

Romans 1:18-23

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 16:29-33

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Be Thou My Vision

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Irish Hymn



Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my heart.



Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.



Thou my best thought, by day or by night, —



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight; Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r; Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 5:1-6, 22-31

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.²Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. ⁵Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. ⁶Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

²²And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

²⁴“Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. ²⁶This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found

wanting; ²⁸Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

²⁹Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. ³¹And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

We use the ancient creeds 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

--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 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.]

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.

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)

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.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at the U of A Mall.

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

RUF Exam Week Care Packages: Sami Byker is organizing a tabling event through RUF to give out goodie bags for students on campus during finals week. Donations will be accepted through Thursday, December 2, 2021. Donations items include: microwave popcorn, coffee/tea singles, bottled water, chewing gum, pencils/pens, granola/protein bars, individually wrapped pretzels, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers, and candy. Contact Sami at sbbyker@gmail.com.

Christmas Choir: If you have experience in four-part harmony choir singing (or a desire to learn!), you are invited to participate in a special Christmas choir that will lead the congregation in a few carols this Advent season. Let Sarah Lewis (sarahgrimeslewis@gmail.com) know if you are interested and she will contact you with practice info.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Minister in Residence: Nick Davis
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Intern: Rebekah Taylor

Midtown Presbyterian Church
www.mpctucson.org
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717
678.849.7918