



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Palm Sunday

04.02.2023

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

Allah would not permit such a wonderful person as the Prophet 'Isa to be so mistreated.

--The Koran

Down the years it has become apparent that unless the church is constantly exploring the meaning of Jesus's death, constantly wrestling with the early biblical texts which refer to it, it is all too easy to get side-tracked, to settle down with a half-truth, or even to follow paths that ultimately lead down blind alleys.

—Tom Wright

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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.

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.

All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

Lyrics: Edward Perronet; Music: Oliver Holden

All hail the pow'r of Jes-us' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall; Bring
forth the roy-al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring
forth the roy-al di - a - dem and crown Him, Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

Prayer of Invocation

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

Call to Confession of Sin

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. 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

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Abide With Me

Lyrics: Henry Lytle; Music: Justin Smith

A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven tide;
The dark-ness deep-ens; Lord with me a - bide.
When o - ther help - ers, fail and com - forts flee.
Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.

What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?

Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless

Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness

Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?

I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

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 for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God,

**that all who confess your Name may be
united in your truth, live together in
your love, and reveal your glory in the
world.**

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

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

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the ways of justice and peace;

**that we may honor one another
and serve the common good.**

(Please pray silently for justice and peace in all nations.)

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

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,
**and grant that we may serve them,
and love one another as Christ loves us.**

(Please pray silently for our love and service of others.)

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

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

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.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
**give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

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 22:1-8

[Reader: Annalyse Rash]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:31-34

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Lead On O King Eternal

Lyrics: Ernest W. Shurtleff; Music: Sara Groves



1.Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, 'til sin's fierce war shall cease, and
2.Lead on, O King E - ter - nal; we fol - low not with fears, for



ho - li - ness shall whis-per the sweet a - men - of peace.
glad-ness breaks like mor-ning wher - e'er Thy face - ap - pears.



For not with swords'loud clash-ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums, but
The cross is lift - ed o'er us, we jour-ney in its light; we



deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n-ly king-dom comes.
fol-low as you guide us; lead on O God - of might.

Refrain



Let your king - dom - come, and your will be



done right here on the earth like it is in hea-ven.

Gospel Reading

Mark 15:21-47

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. **22** And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. **25** And it was the third hour when they crucified him.

26 And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." **27** And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. **29** And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **35** And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." **36** And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." **37** And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** And when the centurion, who stood facing

him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

40 There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. **41** When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, **43** Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **44** Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. **45** And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. **46** And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. **47** Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.]

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 the center aisle.. 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 outside aisles.]

Drive Out The Darkness

Music & Lyrics: Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Dan Marotta, John Swinton

Refrain



Come, O — come, be our light, drive out the dark-ness; come, Je-sus come.

Verse



1.Ev' ry year un - der the thorn, ev' - ry wrong that we have known,

2.Ev'-ry wea-pon made for war, ev' - ry gun, and ev' - ry sword

3.In the emp - ti - ness of grief, through the night of suf-fer - ing,



ev'-ry val-ley will be raised, the an-cient ru - ins will be re - made.

will be melt-ed in the flame to be used for gar-den - ing.

In the loss and in the tears, God our com-fort please be near!

Come, O Come, be our light, drive out the darkness;

Come, O Come, be our light, drive out the darkness!

Come and end all the violence; come, and do not be silent;

Come, cling to your promise; come, You'll break all injustice;

Come, Jesus, come.

The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The musical score consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, A major (three sharps). The first staff begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The second staff begins with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The lyrics are integrated into the music. The first section of lyrics is:

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -
joice. From world to world, the joy shall ring, — "The Lord om -

Chorus

The second section, labeled 'Chorus', continues with the lyrics:

ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! — Lord of
Lords, An - cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his
Praise! — All your — days, all your — days.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must;
The judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

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.

Good Friday Service: We'll meet for a service of reflection on the last words of Jesus on the cross at 7:00pm on Friday. The Vineyard is using their building then, so we will meet at the north end of Himmel Park (1000 N Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716). Bring chairs if you want them. Children are welcome and the service will last about 40 minutes.

Men's Book Group: Tuesday, April 11 at 7pm at the McReynolds (1241 E Sobre Lomas). We're reading Living Life Backwards by David Gibson.

Easter Worship Service: We will meet here at the Vineyard at 5:00 for Easter. We plan to meet out on the lawn under the tent for that service.

MIDTOWN PRESBYTERIAN

∞ 2023 EASTER OFFERING ∞



TENKARAKI INKERA FOR THE VINEYARD SCHOOL

For The Children's Sake
KALABO, SOUTH AFRICA, PO BOX 100, KALABO, 5641, SOUTH AFRICA

Two new classrooms for the school in Leboo



PROJECT GOAL: \$20,000

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