

MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

03.07.2021

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

Money doesn't make you happy. I now have \$50 million but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million.

--Arnold Schwarzenegger

It isn't necessary to be rich and famous to be happy. It's only necessary to be rich.

—Alan Alda

Money was never a big motivation for me, except as a way to keep score.

—Donald Trump

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

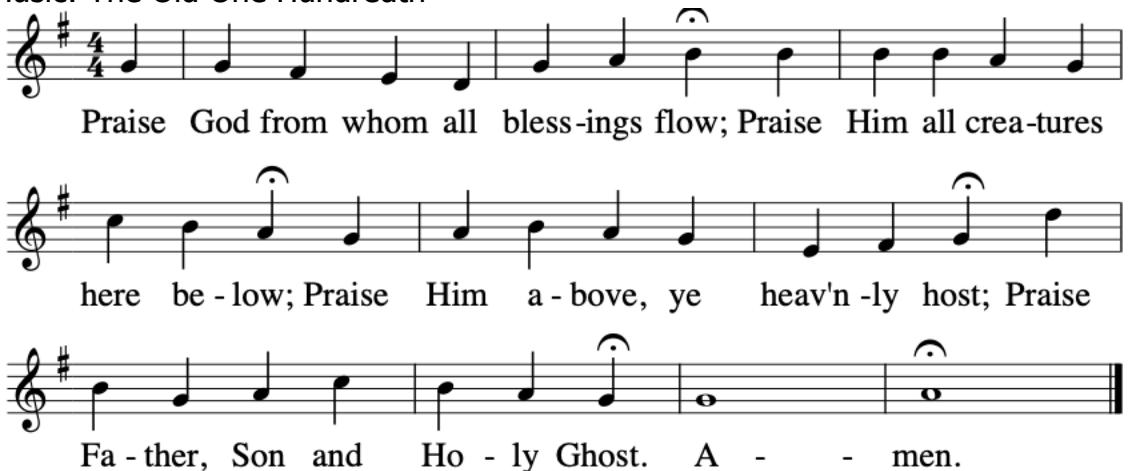
Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

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



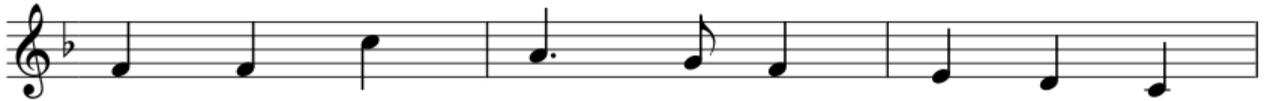
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

Praise 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

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together.]

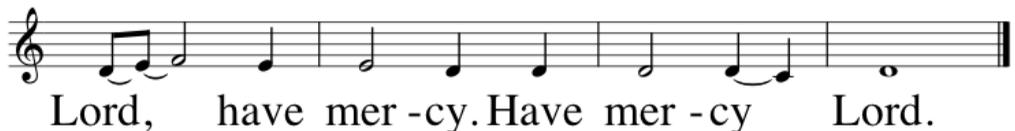
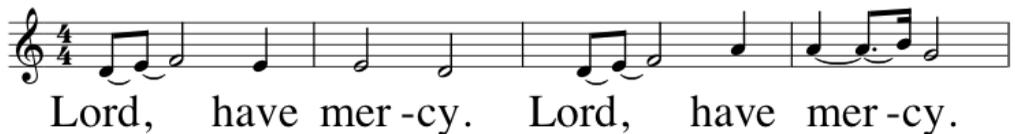
God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, 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.]

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.

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



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.

Our consciences are weak and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness.

So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. *Bridge* I'm hold - ing
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father,
since You have promised to grant our requests, we
make our supplications to You in the name of Your Son,
Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence). Amen.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to be
wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (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.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving grace
through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence). Amen.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

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.**

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Alicia Morris]

Psalm 62:9-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:19-22

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Revelation Song

Music & Lyrics: Jamie Lee Riddle

Verse



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain; hol-y, hol-y is he; _



Sing a new song to him who sits on heav-en's mer-cy seat. _



Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the _ Lord God _ Al might - y.

Clothed in rainbows of living color;
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be
To you the only wise King. [Chorus]

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water;
Such a marv'lous mystery. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-10

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Reader: 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 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 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!**

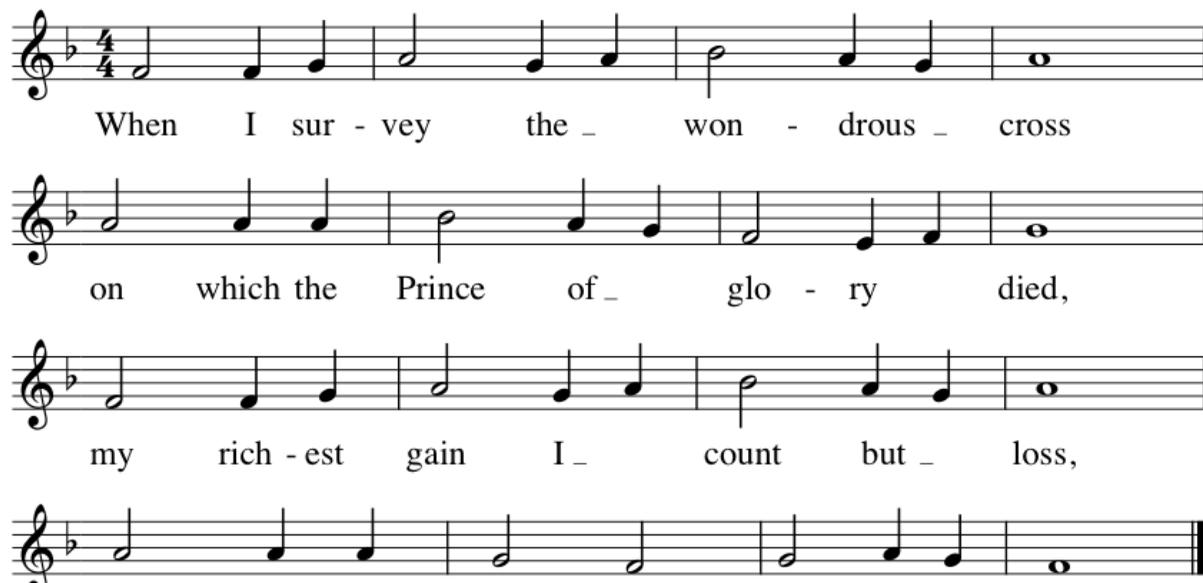
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.]

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Watts



When I sur - ve y the _ won - drous _ cross
on which the Prince of _ glo - ry died,
my rich - est gain I _ count but _ loss,
And pour con - tempt on all my _ pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all

In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

Verse



When the fields are dry, and the win-ter is long,



bles-sed are the meek, the - hum-ble the poor; When my



soul is down - cast and my voice has no - song. For mer-cy, for

Chorus



com-fort, I wait on the Lord. In the har - vest feast or the



fal - low ground, my cer - tain hope is in Je - sus found; my



lot, my cup, my por - tion sure, what - e - ver comes we



shall - en - dure, what - e - ver comes - we shall - en - dure.

On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured
He rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky;
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door,
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. [Chorus]

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes,
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
Without His hand to guide me, my shield and my strength;
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. [Chorus]

Benediction

Easter Offering Leboo Borehole

We want to raise
\$25,000 to dig a
bore hole for
Leboo, Kenya

For the Children's Sake has been given five acres of land on which to build a school and church, but first needs a supply of clean water so the Massai children can live there year round.

A bore hole facilitates many other relief needs, especially for girls in this area. With clean water they can use washable feminine hygiene products, go to school, more easily avoid genital mutilation, and connect to the good news of Jesus.

Contribute by writing a check to Midtown Presbyterian Church (noting the Borehole Project) or by giving online at www.mpctucson.org/donate.



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: Our first meeting will be on Sunday morning, March 21st, from 9:00-10:30 in the Youth Building just off of the playground here at the Vineyard. We plan to meet every other week. Let Charles know if you are interested in being part of it.

Welcome Olivia Stowe! Olivia is our new Nursery Director, and our nursery is back open as of today. We are setting up volunteers to help in the nursery. Let Julie Garland know if you want to serve.

Good Friday Service: We will have our Good Friday service here on April 2nd at 7:00pm.

Women’s Bible Study: Meets next week—3/17.

Women’s Book Group: This Thursday at 7:00 at Melissa McRae’s house (409 E Lester St.). The Book is The Supper of the Lamb by Robert Capon.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

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

Midtown Presbyterian Church
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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