



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10.01.2023

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

I believe there is no one principle which predominates in human nature so much in every stage of life, from the cradle to the grave, in males and females, old and young, black and white, rich and poor, high and low, as this passion for superiority.

--John Adams

Increasingly the ordered fellowship of the church becomes the sign of grace for the warring factions of a disordered world. Only as the church binds together those whom selfishness and hate have cut apart will its message be heard and its ministry of hope to the friendless be received.

- Edmund P. Clowney

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

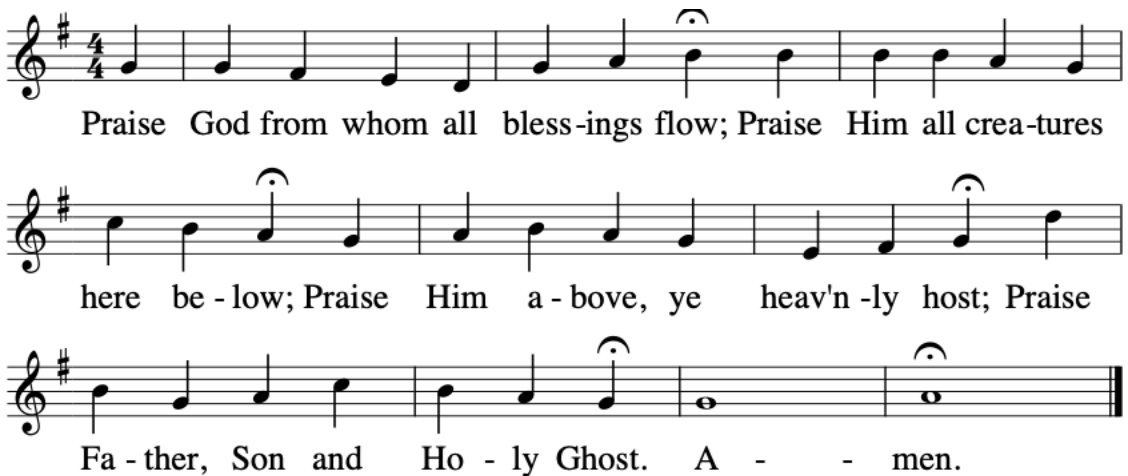
Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

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



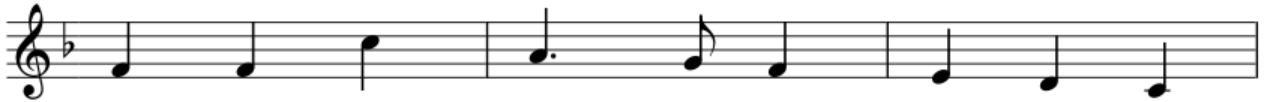
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

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

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Confession of Sin

[Pray the bold text aloud together]

Minister: Almighty and most merciful Father,

All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega

Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.

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

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 3:23-24

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into several lines of music, with lyrics aligned under the notes. The lyrics are: "Your la - bor - is not in - vain though the ground un - der - neath you is cursed and - stained. Your plant - ing and reap - ing are ne - ver the same, - but your la - bor is not in vain. For I am with you. I am with you. I am with you. I am with you. For I have called you, called you by name. - your la - bor is not in vain." The score ends with a double bar line.

Your la - bor - is not in - vain though the
ground un - der - neath you is cursed and - stained. Your
plant - ing and reap - ing are ne - ver the same, - but your
Chorus
la - bor is not in vain. For I am
- to verse 2
with you. I am with you. I am with you. I am
with you. For I have called you, called you by name. - your
la - bor is not in vain.

Your labor is not unknown,
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,
But your labor is not unknown [chorus]

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit;
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth;
For all that is old will at last be made new,
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit [chorus]

The houses you labor to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled;
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed [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 who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amid the conflicts of this passing world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you:

Save and help us, O Lord.

From pride, selfishness, greed and anger; from passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ as well as war among nations:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for peace (silence). Amen.

As you have blessed our nation so richly, we pray for the President and all in authority over us, that they would lead with wisdom and truth:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for those who lead (silence). Amen.

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for all who struggle with the gospel (silence). Amen.

For all who suffer: the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

Save and help us, O Lord.

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: Frances Willberg]

Exodus 19:4-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

His Mercy is More

Lyrics & Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

Verse

What love could re-mem-ber no wrongs we have done? Om -
ni - scient, all know - ing, he counts not their sum. Thrown
in - to a sea with-out bot-tom or shore, our sins, they are man-y; his

Chorus

mer-cy is more. Praise the Lord, - his mer-cy is more. _____
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn. - Our
sins, they are man - y; his mer - cy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father so tender is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;

Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;
His blood was the payment His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an

ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

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.

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 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.]

Most Merciful God

Music & Lyrics: Gregory W. LaFollette



1. Most mer-ci-ful God, — we con-fess — that we have sinned — a-gainst you.



By what we have done — by what we have left — un-done. —



We have not loved — you with our whole — heart our whole — heart.



We have not loved — our neigh-bors as — we've loved our - selves. —

For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy and forgive us;
That we may delight in your will, your will.
And walk in your ways, in your ways, in your ways.
To the glory of your name, of your name, of your name.

Most merciful God, we humbly repent. Help us to walk in your ways,
Most merciful God, most merciful God. Amen.

In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken



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

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.

Men's Book Group: October book is The Winter Queen by Boris Akunin.

Nursery Help: We need a few more volunteers for the nursery/child care ministry to our little ones. If a few more will help out the intervals will be longer and make things easier for us all. Contact Sami Skaare if you can help: (602) 826-4164, sbbyker@gmail.com.

RUF Partner Party: Saturday, 10/7 at 7pm Matt & Sarah Esswein and Paige Jackson would love to invite you to a U of A RUF Partner Party this coming Saturday to say thank you for all the ways you have partnered with us in prayer, serving, and financial gifts. (2617 E Waverly St. Tucson, 85716) Please join us for a night of thanksgiving, worship, stories from campus, and connection with fellow partners in this ministry.

Church Potluck: Our next potluck is October 22. Please bring your favorite dishes to share! Sign up sheet is at this link—>



Refugee Family Update: Our new family has not arrived yet and this will give us the time to get trained and be ready. We need to sign up in the Refugee Volunteer roster (Jeannette Mendoza has the form at church or you can sign up online in the church email link.)