

MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
09.16.2018

Welcome to Worship at Midtown!

We are just starting our corporate worship services, and are really glad to have you with us. 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 in the patio room. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Worship Note

When we begin to glimpse the reality of God, the natural reaction is to worship him. Not to have that reaction is a fairly sure sign that we haven't yet really understood who he is or what he's done.

—N.T. Wright

Reflection

I have observed one thing among true Christians in their differences in many countries: What divides and severs true Christian groups and Christians - what leaves a bitterness that can last for 20, 30, 40 years (or for 50 or 60 years in a son's or daughter's memory) - is not the issue of doctrine or belief that caused the differences in the first place. Invariably, it is a lack of love - and the bitter things that are said by true Christians in the midst of differences.

—Francis Schaeffer

The Word

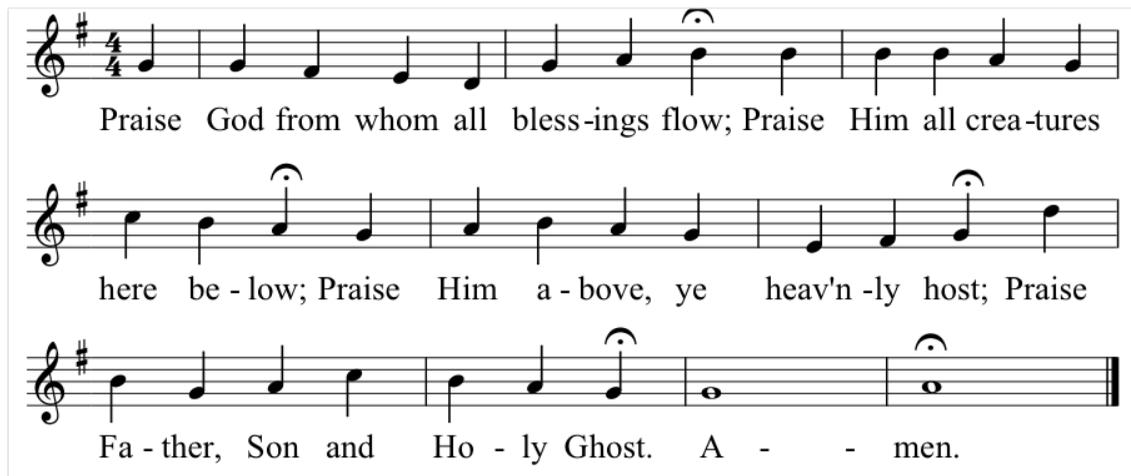
Call to Worship

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.

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.

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'nward, 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.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5-8

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Please pray aloud together

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

You are invited to confess your sins to God 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

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit



O love that will not let me go I rest



my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back



the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths



its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

The Prayers of the People

(Please pray the italicized portions aloud together.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us.

(Silent prayer for God to bless this congregation)

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

That your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

(Silent prayer for a powerful display of God's saving power here in Tucson)

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

(Silent prayer for our non-Christian friends, family members, and co-workers to begin to follow Jesus)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

(Silent prayer for all 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.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:22-24

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Reading

John 21:

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

People: *Praise be to you, O Christ*

Our Great God

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega & Mac Powell



E - ter-nal God, un - chang _____ing, my - ster - ious and un - known. Your



bound - less love un - fail _____ing, in grace and mer - cy shown. Bright



ser - a - phim in cease - less flight a - round your glor - ious throne. They



raise their voi - ces day _____and night in praise to you a - lone.

Chorus



Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great



God. Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great God.

Lord, we are weak and frail, and helpless in the storm;
Surround us with Your angels and hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field, and valley of the earth,
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God, Who rules them by his word.

New Testament Reading

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.]

Sursum Corda

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.

Words of Institution

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!

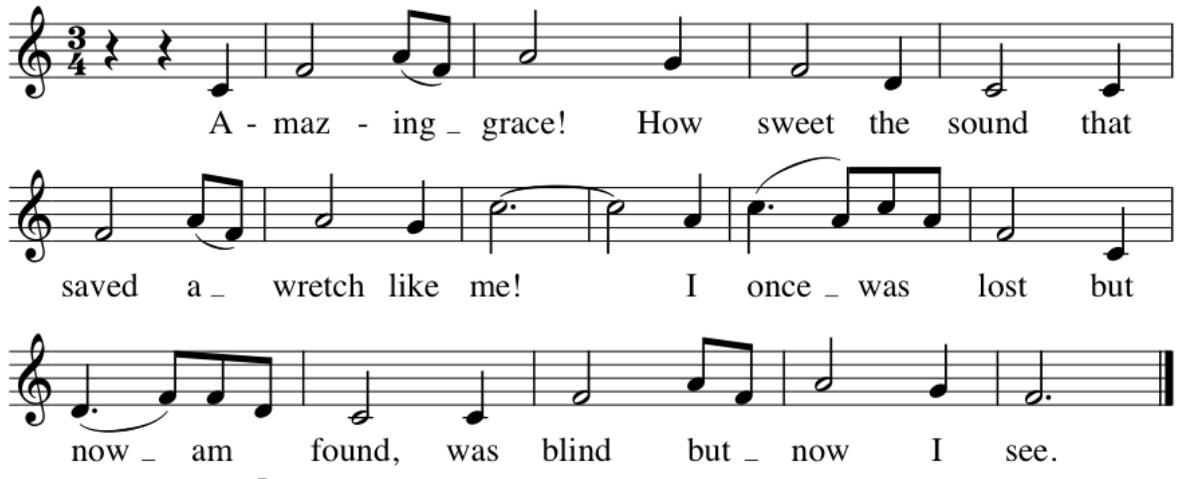
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

[As you are ready please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. We provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

Amazing Grace

Lyrics & Music: John Newton



A - maz - ing - grace! How sweet the sound that
saved a - wretch like me! I once - was lost but
now - am - found, was blind but - now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there, ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun;
We've no less days, to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain



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 -

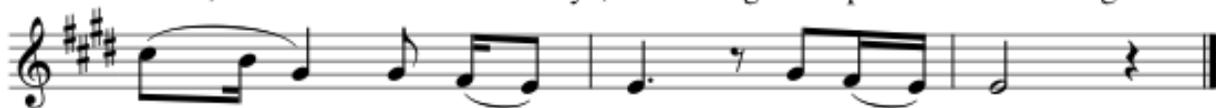
Chorus



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

Silent Prayers During Communion

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed): Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Taking Communion: Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the Joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, you have called me to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box in the back of the nave that you can use as you enter or leave, or as you come to communion. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Living Spot Needed

Our new RUF Campus Intern, Erin Fitzpatrick, is looking for a place to stay this year. She either needs a roommate situation with another post-grad, a room in a family home near campus, or a workable apartment situation. If you have a good idea let Erin (or Brittany or Dan) know. Thanks!

Music Night

Wednesday Night the 27th at the Garland's house (1324 N Norton Ave). If you play an instrument you can transport, come over for a Hootenanny. Bring a song to perform and one we can play together. Invite anyone you know who might enjoy it.

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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