



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10.03.2021

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

This is my Father's world,
Let me not forget,
That though the wrong seems oft so strong
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world
The battle is not done
Jesus who died must be satisfied
And earth and heaven be one.

The Word

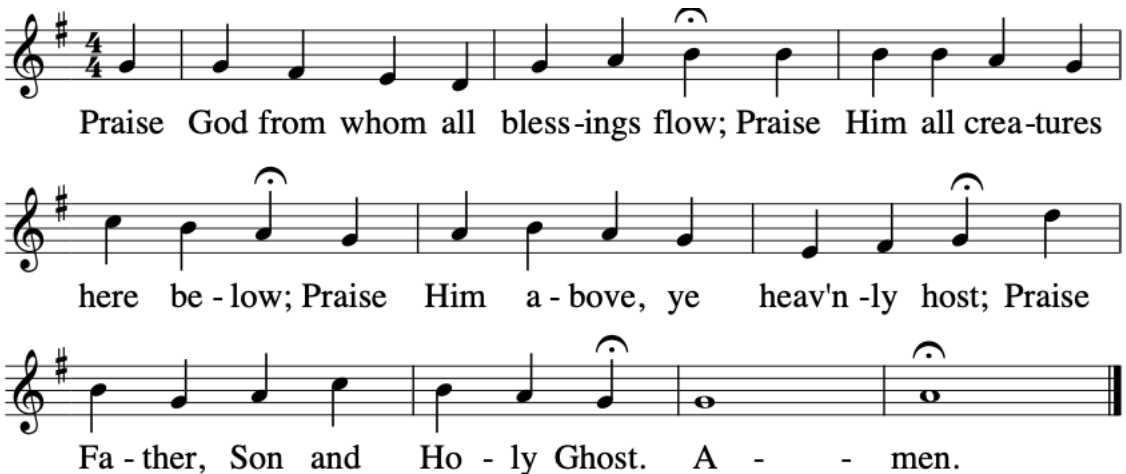
Call to Worship

Psalm 107:1-3

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

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.

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.

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.

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Music & Lyrics: Walter Chambers Smith

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Im - mor-tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

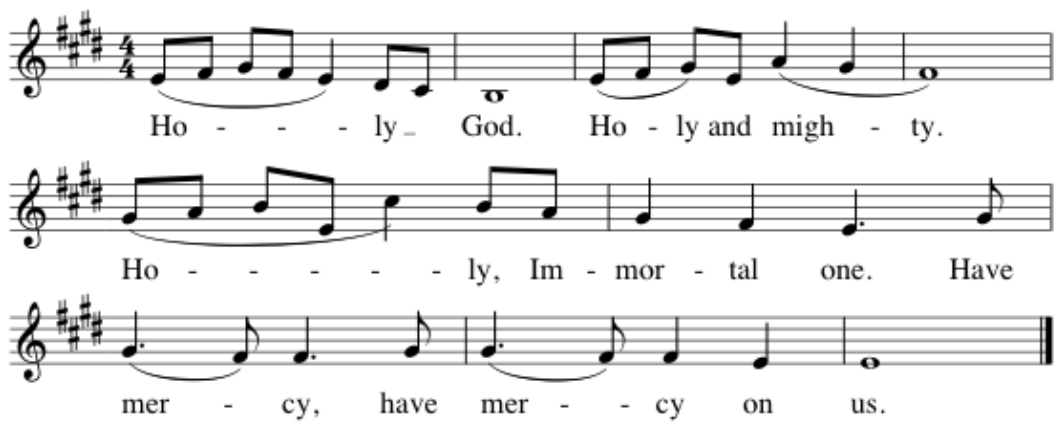
[Pray aloud together]

Almighty and Merciful Father, You have told us what is good, and we agree with you. Our lives, however, often do not measure up. We have not acted justly. Instead, we have acted in ways that promote our own comfort and advancement. We have not loved mercy. Instead, we have loved the order and control over our lives that we can maintain if we do not serve those in need. We have not walked humbly with you. Instead, we have run from your paths when they are difficult and involve sacrifice. Forgive us for our sins against you and our neighbors. By the power of your Spirit make us a congregation which acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[You are invited to confess your sins 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

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

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.

It Is Well With My Soul

Lyrics: Henry Lyte; Music: Bill Moore

When peace like a ri - ver at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
sea bil-lows roll; What - e - ver my lot, thou hast taught me to
say, it is well, it is well, with my soul! It is well,
with my soul, it is well, it is well, with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul. [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.

Father Eternal, God Almighty,
You have brought forth from the root of Jesse
a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

**He is your anointed one, the promised Messiah,
In him you are well pleased. We come to you in his
service, to offer our prayers of intercession for the
coming of his kingdom.**

Father Eternal,
You have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

**We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be
faithful to her Lord, bearing witness to his reign
in every land among every people.**

[Pray for the protection and expansion of the Church in the world.]

Father Eternal,
You have anointed Jesus to be our Lord and Shepherd

We pray for those whom you have appointed to be
ministers of your gospel.

**We especially ask for your protection and help
for our pastor, Charles.**

[Pray for those who proclaim the gospel of Christ.]

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.

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus to be Lord of all the earth.

We pray that you draw all people to kneel before the Prince of Peace. Please establish justice and peace between nations in your world.

[Pray for peace among the nations.]

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords.

We pray for the rulers of our nation that they might be wise, fearing the Lord to whom they must bow in the world to come.

[Pray for our political leaders.]

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of your people.

**We pray for those among us who suffer,
For those who are lonely,
For those without home or family,
For those who are depressed and discouraged,
For those who are seeking work,
For those who are sick,
For those who are grieving.**

[Pray for those who suffer.]

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 19:9-11

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

This Is My Father's World

Music & Lyrics: Maltbie D. Babcock

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'This Is My Father's World'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears, all na-ture sings, and round me rings, the mu-sic of the spheres. This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees and skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.'

This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and Heav'n be one.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 2:1-30

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ² Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³ And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." ⁴ Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." ⁵ The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. ⁶ But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." ⁷ They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation." ⁸ The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— ⁹ if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation."¹⁰ The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean.¹¹ The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

¹² Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. ¹³ So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. ¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to

kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵ He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶ And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

²³ To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,
for you have made known to us the king's matter."

²⁴ Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

²⁵ Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." ²⁶ The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" ²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:²⁹ To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. ³⁰ But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind

Minister: 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 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.]

Come Ye Sinners

Lyrics: Joseph Hart Music: Southern Harmony



Come ye sin-ners, poor and need-y, weak and wounded, sick and sore;



Je-sus rea-dy stands to save you, full of pit - y, - love and power.

Refrain



I will a-rise and go to Je-sus; he will em-brace me in his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav - ior,



O there are ten - thou - sand charms.

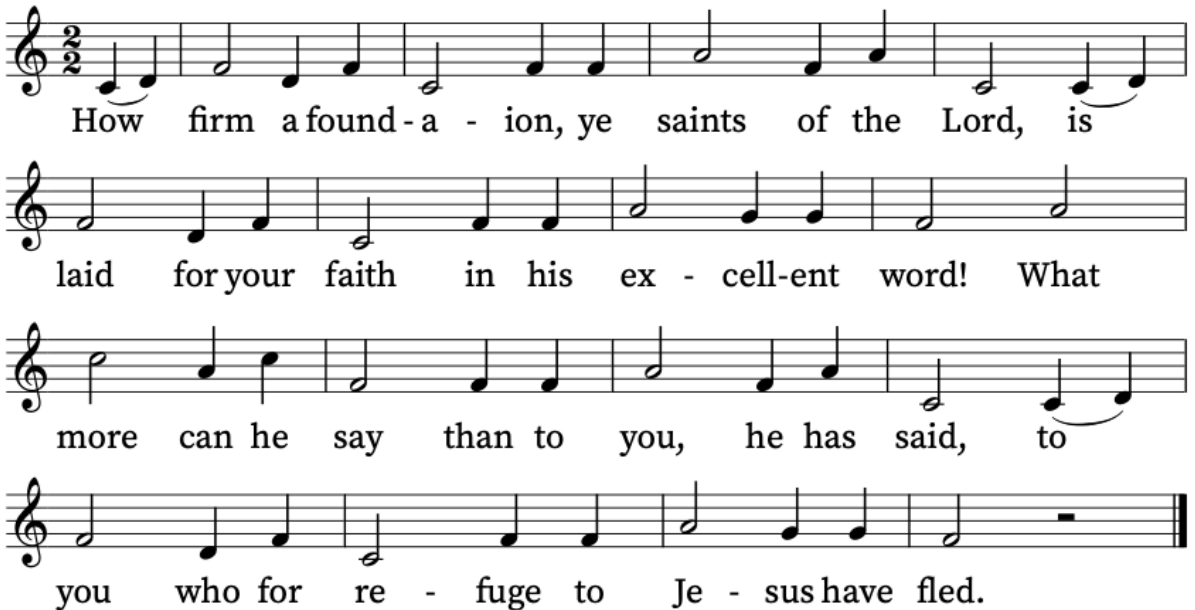
Come, ye thirsty; come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.
[Refrain]

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all. [Refrain]

Lo! The incarnate God ascended Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture wholly; Let no other trust intrude. [Refrain]

How Firm A Foundation

Music & Lyrics: Traditional



How firm a found-a - ion, ye saints of the Lord, is
laid for your faith in his ex - cell-ent word! What
more can he say than to you, he has said, to
you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled.

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

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.

Prayer before the service: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Midtown Institute: Our last (review) meeting will be Sunday morning, October 10, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

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

Women’s Bible Study: This Wednesday evening at 7:00 at the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Yunuen Jankowski will be leading a discussion of Larry Crabb’s book Shattered Dreams.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

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

Welcome Nick & Janet Davis: Nick is coming to serve part time at Midtown as a Minister in Residence. He will be helping us organize the systems and programs of the church to help make room for new people to come and get connected here. Nick is an Anglican minister (ACNA), and he and Janet have two boys, Dallas (2) and Elgin (6 mo.). Nick will be preaching for us next week—please come to welcome the Davises!

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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