



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

12.04.2022

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

Where is God when it is dark? The church proclaims that he never hides himself to no purpose. Somewhere, somehow, in spite of all appearances, his vindication awaits the proper moment. ... God will come."

--Fleming Rutledge

What does Advent mean? It means that death, disease, despair, drug addiction, homelessness, murder, hate, war, orphanhood, poverty, hunger, thirst, tears, & grief have an expiration date. These are not the original intention for the world & won't see the dawn of the new creation.

--David Cassidy

The Word

Call to Worship—

[Matt, Sarah, Nora, Juniper & Evie Esswein]

Lighting of the Peace Candle

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall, as Luke records: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

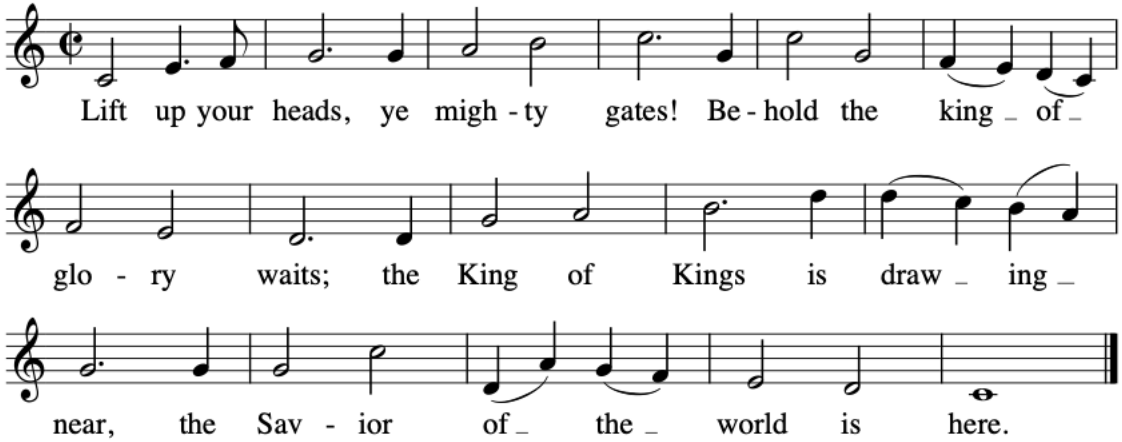
The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lyrics: George Wiessel; Music: Thomas Williams



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G-clef and common time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the king - of -'. The second staff contains: 'glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is draw - ing -'. The third staff contains: 'near, the Sav - ior of - the - world is here.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the king - of -
glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is draw - ing -
near, the Sav - ior of - the - world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on, until our glorious goal is won;
Eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Luke 1:51-54

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Confession of Sin

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

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly. An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer; Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68-69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music: Lewis Redner; Lyrics: Phillip Brooks

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a -
bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by. Yet
in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light; the
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written in a simple, melodic style. The lyrics are: "O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a -", "bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by. Yet", "in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light; the", and "hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night." The score ends with a double bar line.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.

(Please pray silently for the ministry of the church.) Amen.

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

We pray for peace in every corner of the world: in Ukraine and Ethiopia, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.

(Please pray silently for our world.) Amen.

Lord, you offer comfort to those who are in need.

We commend to you all who are afflicted: those who are ill, those who suffer in poverty, those who wrestle with all sorts of addictions, as well as those who sorrow, that they will be comforted in their time of tribulation.

(Please pray silently for all who suffer.) Amen.

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in our history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray now in the words he taught us:

**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: Melissa McRae]

2 Samuel 7:10-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading

Revelation 15:3-4

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

O Holy Night

Music: John Sulrivan Dwight; Lyrics: Placide Cappeau

4 O Ho - ly night the stars are bright-ly shin - ing it is the
8 night of our dear Sav-ior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and er-ror
12 pin - ing 'til he ap-peared and the soul felt its worth. a thrill of hope the
15 wea-ry world re-joi - ces for yon - der breaks a new and glo-rious morn.
20 Fall on your knees, O hear the the an-gel voi - ces. O night di -
23 vine; O night when Christ was born. O
night di - vine O night O night di - vine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:67-79

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit
and prophesied, saying,
68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us^[h] from on high
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

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.

**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.]

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Lyrics: James Montgomery; Music: Vito Aiuto

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son! - Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! - He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, - to take away transgression, and rule in equity. -'

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son! -

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! -

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, -

to take away transgression, and rule in equity. -

He comes, with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for singing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers spring in his path to birth;
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness, like fountains from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever: his name alone is love.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Music: Felix Mendelssohn; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



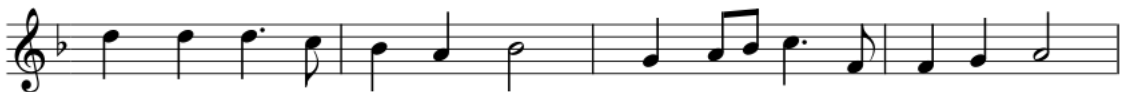
Hark! the her - ald an-gels sing, - "Glo-ry to the new-born King;



peace on earth and mer-cy mild, - God and sin - ners re-con-ciled!"



Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies; -



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is - born in Beth-le-ham!"

Refrain



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry - to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

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 Study for December: December 13th at the McReynold's home at 7:00 pm. We'll be discussing The Heart of Christ by Thomas Goodwin. Join us!

Ladies Christmas Cookie Swap: December 11th @ 10:30 am at Melissa McRae's home (409 E Lester St.). Bring 2 dozen cookies and some brunchy food and an empty tray. Invite friends!

Christmas Carol Sing: join us for a night of singing classic Christmas songs together. The event will be outside at the McReynolds home ([1241 E Sobre Lomas](http://1241E.com)) on December 17 at 7pm. We'll have hot drinks, but feel free to bring other drinks or snacks.

Homeless Ministry Needs: if anyone has jackets/sweaters/blankets/sleeping bags, etc. they would like to donate to the homeless, reach out to Tim Davis or bring them to church (tdavisua74@gmail.com).

Congregational Meeting: We'll have a congregational meeting after church on January 8th to present the budget and talk about plans for the coming year.

RUF Exam Week Goodie Bags: We are looking for donations, such as: individual chip bags, crystal light (or other water flavoring), granola bars, mini water bottles, candy, highlighters, gum, etc.). The bags go out on Tuesday, so hurry!

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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