



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Second Sunday After Epiphany

01.15.2023

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

One of the peculiar ironies of being a human self in the Cosmos: A stranger approaching you in the street will in a second's glance see you whole, size you up, place you in a way which you cannot and never will, even though you have spent a lifetime with yourself, live in the Century of the Self, and therefore ought to know yourself best of all.

The question is: Why is it that in your entire lifetime you will never be able to size yourself up as you can size up somebody else—or size up Saturn—in a ten-second look?

—Walker Percy, in *Lost In the Cosmos*

The Word

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.

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.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures



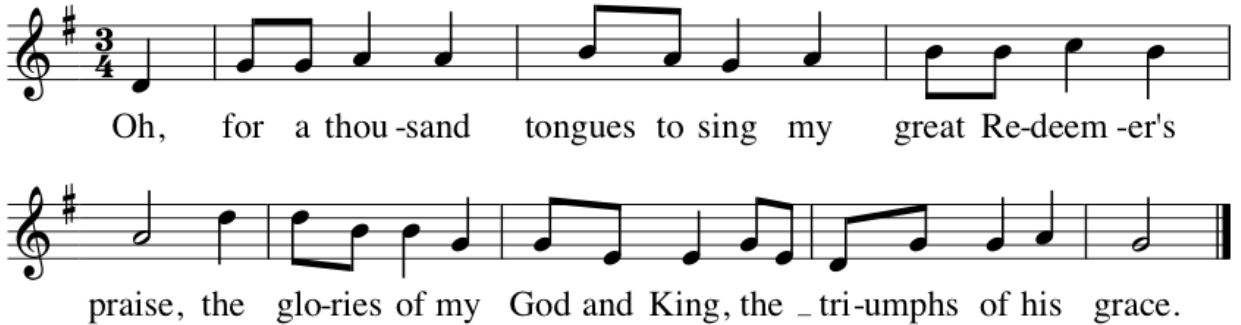
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n -ly host; Praise



Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's
praise, the glo-ries of my God and King, the - tri-umphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy

Prayer of Invocation

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

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.

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14-15

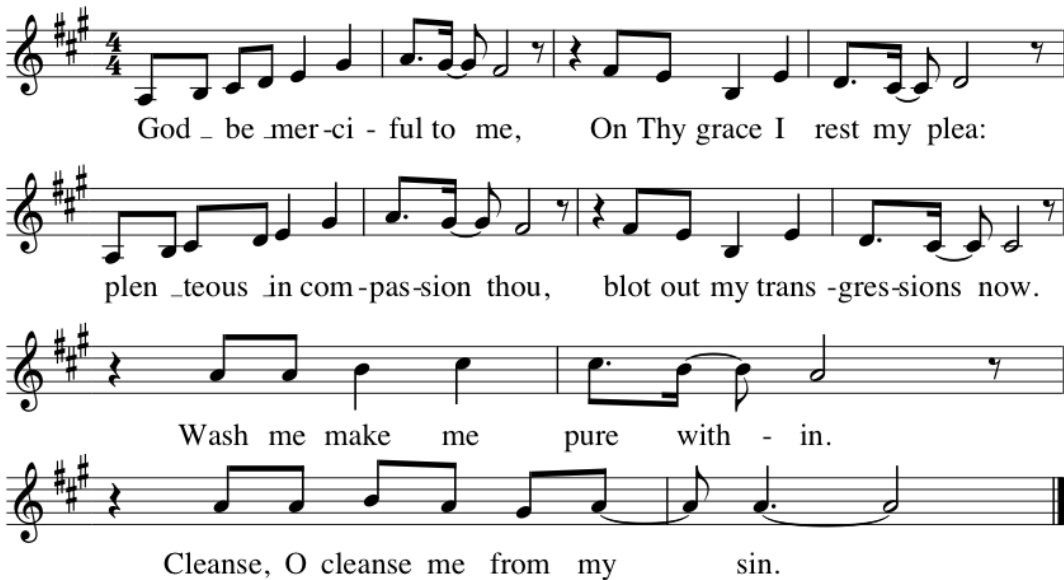
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Confession of Sin

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

Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God _ be _mer-ci - ful to me, On Thy grace I rest my plea:
plen _teous in com-pas-sion thou, blot out my trans -gres-sions now.
Wash me make me pure with - in.
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

Psalm 51 (Continues)

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgement just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.
From my sins, oh, hide thy face: Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from thee; let Thy spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart: Steadfast make my willing heart.

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.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

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.

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.

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: Hannah Johnson]

Isaiah 43:1-4

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading


John 14:18-21

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.


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

Jesus Paid It All

Music & Lyrics: Elvina M. Hall




I - hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small, child of
Lord - now in - deed I find, thy pow'r, and thine a - lone, can
For - noth - ing good have I, where - by thy grace to claim, I'll
And - when, be - fore the throne, I stand in Him com - plete, "Je - sus



weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
change the lep - er's spots, and melt the heart of stone.
wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
died my soul to save," my - lips shall still re - peat.

Chorus



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead!
O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead! [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 1:1-4

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by
the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God
and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and
godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own
glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and
very great promises, so that through them you may become
partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption
that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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.]

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Lyrics: William Williams; Music: Jeremy Casella

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'. It consists of five staves of music in G major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim'. The second staff continues: 'through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art'. The third staff continues: 'might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of'. The fourth staff continues: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of'. The fifth staff continues: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim
through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art
might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

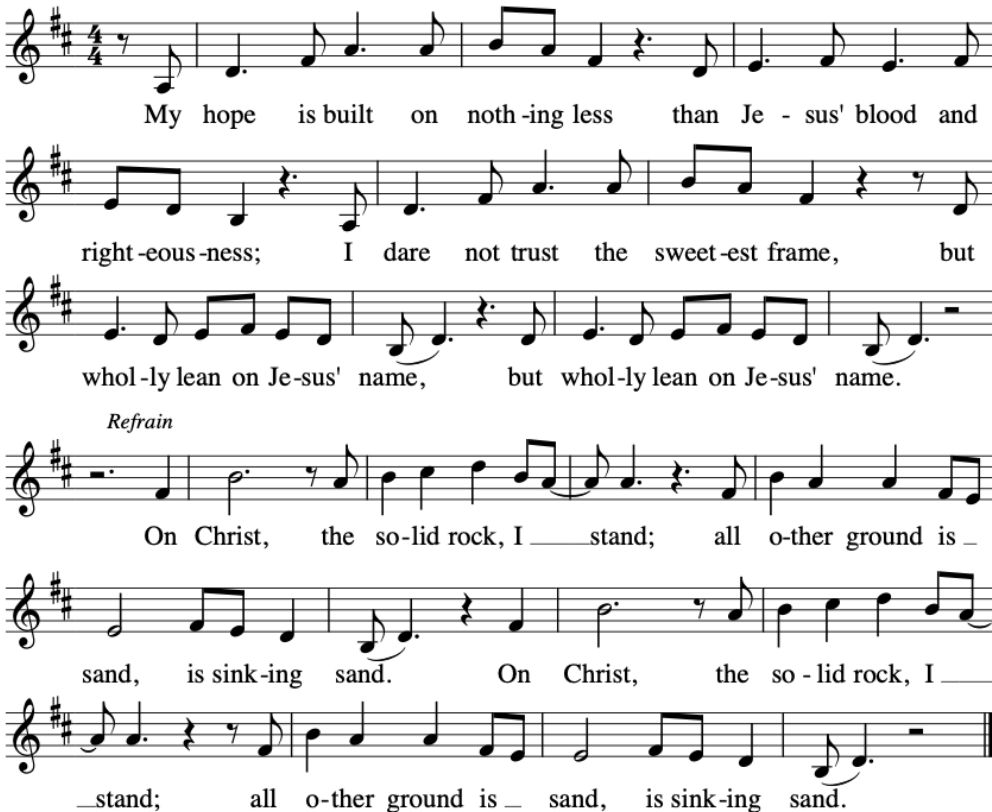
ENDING



Land me
safe on Ca-naan's side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx -
ious fears. Land me safe on Ca - naan's -
side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx - ious fears, good-bye.

Solid Rock

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers



My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
right-eous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the so-lid rock, I stand; all o-ther ground is -
sand, is sink-ing sand. On Christ, the so - lid rock, I -
stand; all o-ther ground is - sand, is sink-ing sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil,
My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
And faultless stand before the throne,
And faultless stand before the throne. [Refrain]

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.

Quarterly Church Prayer Meeting: Sunday morning, January 29th, at 10:30 - 11:30 @ the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave). Everyone is welcome.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Byker
Church Planting Resident: Nick Davis
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein

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