



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday After the Epiphany
01.24.2024

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

The repeated promises in the Qur'an of the forgiveness of a compassionate and merciful Allah are all made to the meritorious, whose merits have been weighed in Allah's scales, whereas the gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales.

— John R.W. Stott

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows for those who don't.

—Blaise Pascal

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:9

Exalt the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy!

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

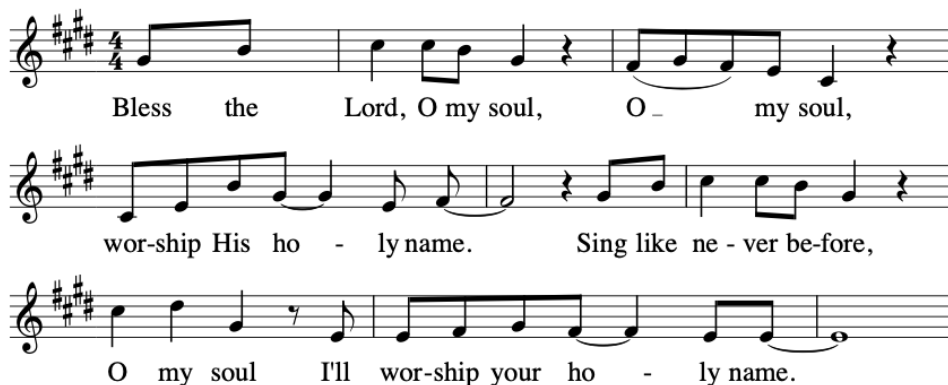
6
Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er

10
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

Ten Thousand Reasons

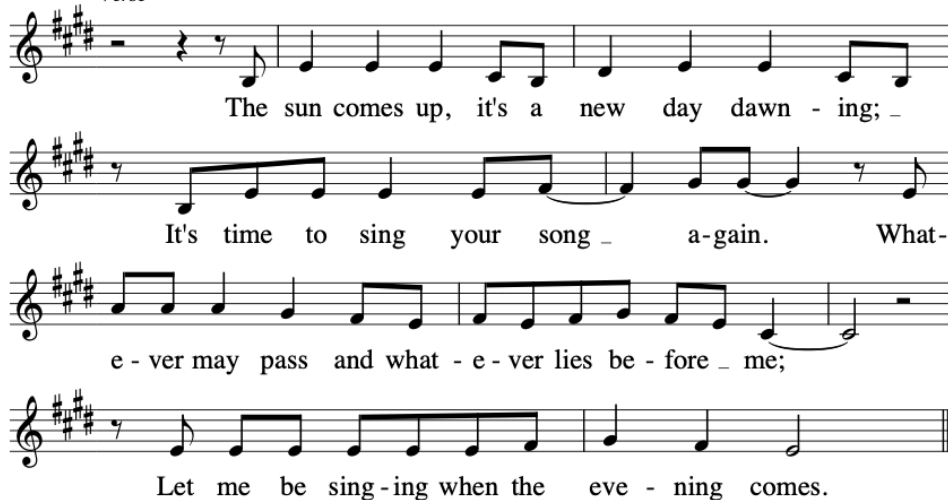
Lyrics and Music: Matt Redman & John Myrin

Chorus



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
wor-ship His ho - ly name. Sing like ne - ver be-fore,
O my soul I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.

Verse



The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; -
It's time to sing your song - a-gain. What-
e - ver may pass and what - e - ver lies be - fore - me;
Let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger,
Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness I will keep on singing,
10,000 reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing your praise unending,
10,000 years and then forevermore.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5-6

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.

Confession of Sin

[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 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!

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Lyrics: John Newton; Music: Wedell Kimbrough

1. Pen-sive doubt-ing fear-ful heart, hear what Christ the Sav-ior _
4
says; Ev-'ry word should joy im-part, change thy mourn-ing in-to
8
praise. Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee, may He help thee _ to be _
12
lieve; Then thou pre-sent-ly will
14
see, thou hast lit-tle cause to _ grieve.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed; All thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I the High and Holy One, Israel's God, by all adored,
As thy Savior will be known, Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew, And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew; Thou shall soon rejoice again;
Though I seem to hide my face, Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space, Ending in eternal peace.

Though afflicted, tempest tossed, Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou can be lost, Thou art graven on my heart;
All thy wastes I will repair; Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
And in thee it shall appear, What the God of love can do.

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.

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 display of God's saving power in Tucson)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

[Led by Dave Adams]

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.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

(Silent prayer for our non-Christian friends 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

[Reader: Stephanie Knudsen]

Isaiah 53:4-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36-48

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

Verse



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]

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.]

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.

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.]

The Dreadful Tree

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Waters

Jesus cast a look on me, Give me sweet simplicity.
Make me poor and keep me low, Seeking only You to know,
Seeking only You to know.

All that feeds my busy pride, Cast it evermore aside.
Bid my will to Yours submit; Lay me humbly at Your feet,
Lay me humbly at Your feet.

Refrain: For way over yonder on the dreadful tree,
Way over yonder on the dreadful tree,
You shed your blood and you died for me.

Make me like a little child, Of my strength and wisdom spoiled.
Seeing only in Your light; Walking only in Your might,
Walking only in Your might.

Leaning on Your loving breast, Where a weary soul can rest.
Feeling well the peace of God, Flowing from Your precious blood,
Flowing from Your precious blood [Refrain]

In this posture let me live, And hosannas daily give.
In this temper let me die, And hosannas ever cry,
And hosannas ever cry. [Refrain]

Behold, behold! His kingdom now has come!

God of Justice (God of Justice), Righteous Judge (righteous Judge),
Behold, behold, behold!

Our Defender (our Defender), Prince of Peace (Prince of Peace),
Behold, behold, behold!

Father to the fatherless (Father to the fatherless),
our strong Deliverer (our strong Deliverer),
Behold, behold, behold!

He's troubling the water (troubling the water)
and we're marching through:

Behold, behold! His kingdom now has come!
Behold! Behold! His kingdom now has come!

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.

Super Bowl Party: February 11th after church at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave.). The game starts at 4:30pm and church starts at 5:00pm. We will record the game and start it when we gather after church (around 6:45 presumably). Invite friends if you want to.

Women's Book Group: January 26th @ 7pm. We are reading Jesus Through the Eyes of Women by Rebecca McLaughlin. Cara Scott will host (2839 E Vespers Pl).

Also, our **new refugee family**--from Somalia--will be arriving at the airport on Tuesday at 6:40. We want to greet them and have some friendly faces as they arrive in a terrifyingly new world. Jeannette Mendoza has details (jmarg2011@hotmail.com).

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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