



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
08.08.2021

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

"You know the kind of guy who does nothing but bad things and then wonders why his life sucks? Well, that was me. Every time something good happened to me, something bad was always waiting around the corner: karma. That's when I realized that I had to change. So, I made a list of everything bad I've ever done, and one by one I'm gonna make up for all my mistakes. I'm just trying to be a better person. My name is Earl."

—Earl Hickey, from *My Name Is Earl*

You see, at the centre of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics – in physical laws – every action is met by an equal or opposite one. It's clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I'm absolutely sure of it.

And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "As you reap, so will you sow" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff.

That's between me and God. But I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. I'd be in deep s***. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity.

—Bono

The Word

Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

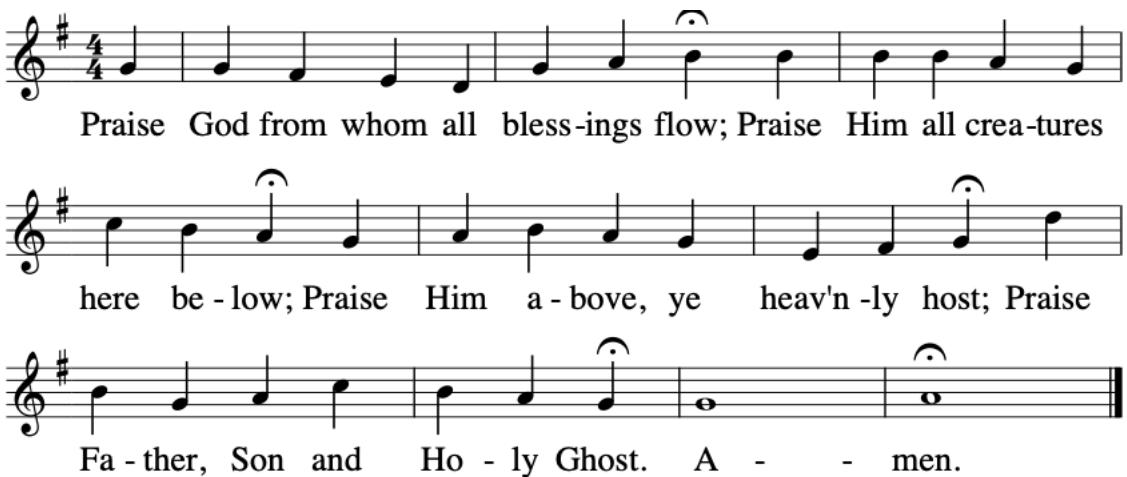
Worship begins with God's call to us to worship him. As always, God initiates with us, such as we are, and invites us to be with him out of sheer mercy.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.

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.

To Christ the Lord Let Every Tongue

Music: Laura Taylor; Lyrics: Samuel Stennent

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'To Christ the Lord Let Every Tongue'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'To Christ the Lord let ev - ery tongue, its nob - lest tri - bute bring. When he's the sub - ject of the song, who can re - fuse to sing? - Sur - vey the beau - ties of his face, and on his glo - ries dwell; - think of the won - der of his grace, and all his tri - umphs - tell.'

To Christ the Lord let ev - ery tongue, its nob - lest tri - bute
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can re - fuse to sing? - Sur - vey the beau - ties
of his face, and on his glo - ries dwell; - think
of the won - der of his grace, and all his tri - umphs - tell.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon his awful brow.
His head with radiant glories crowned, his lips with grace overflow.
No mortal can with him compare among the sons of men;
Fairer He is than all the fair that fill the heavenly train

He saw me plunged in deep distress, he fled to my relief.
For me he bore the shameful cross and carried all my grief
His hand a thousand blessings pours upon my guilty head
His presence gilds my darkest hours and guards my sleeping bed

To Him I owe my life and breath and all the joys I have
He makes me triumph over death and saves me from the grave
To Heaven the place of His abode he brings my weary feet
Shows me the glories of my God and makes my joy complete

Since from his bounty I receive such proofs of love divine.
Had I a thousand hearts to give, Lord they should all be thine.
A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 3:20-21

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through 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]

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And, O most holy and loving Father, help us, we plead with you, to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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.

All I Have Is Christ

Music & Lyrics: Jordan Kauflin

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of six staves. The first five staves contain the main body of the song, and the sixth staff is the chorus. The lyrics are written below the notes.

I once was lost in dark-est night yet thought I knew the way. The sin that prom - ised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a re-bel to your will, and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse you still.

Chorus
Hal - le - lu - - - jah! All I have is Christ! Hal-le - lu - - - jah! Je-sus is my life!

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross;
And I beheld God's love displayed: you suffered in my place,
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace!
[Chorus]

Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see
The strength to follow your commands could never come from me.
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose
And let my song forever be: my only boast is you. [Chorus]

The Prayers of the People

[Led by William Price]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, especially where
there is war, and for the unity of the body of

Christ, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our world.)

For our nation, the President and all whom we have trusted with the
leadership of our country, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our nation's leaders.)

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 this gathering of the faithful at Midtown Presbyterian, as well as those gathering together in worship throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

And now hear us as we pray as our Savior taught us, saying:

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.

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Alicia Morris]

2 Corinthians. 4:16-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-5

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Let This Heart Not Wander

Lyrics & Music: Eric J. Marshall

Let my eyes see no-thing, let my eyes see no-thing but your
glo-ry, my Lord. _ Let my eyes see no-thing, let my
eyes see no-thing but your glo-ry, my Lord. _

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

May I always linger, May I always linger,
In your presence, my Lord. (repeat)

I will ever praise you, I will ever praise you,
You are worthy, my Lord. (repeat)

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

10 Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. **11** Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. **12** Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. **13** But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

14 There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. **15** And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

16 When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, **17** then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Profession of Faith

Francis Willberg

Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

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.]

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

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CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down;
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he;
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he. [Chorus]

The table now is spread, the table now is spread;
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed,
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near. [Chorus & Repeat First Verse]

Solid Rock

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers



My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and



right-ous-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 bloodSupport 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. (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: We have a few people meet to pray silently for the worship service and for the mission of the church from 4:30-4:45 in the youth room off of the playground behind the church. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be next Sunday morning, August 15th, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 6:00 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

Women’s Sermon Discussion: Tuesday Night at 7:00 at Julie Garland’s home ((1324 N Norton Ave). We’ll discuss the Ecclesiastes sermons referring to Charles’ sermons and William Price’s book [As Far As the Curse is Found](#).

August Book Goups: The Men’s group is reading [Silver Linings Playbook](#), and meeting Tuesday night at 7:00 at the McReynolds’ (1241 E Sobre Lomas). The Women’s group is reading [Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes](#), and meeting Friday night at 7:00 at Ali Hazrati’s home (27320 East Sabino Terrace Place).

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra &
Rebekah Taylor
Nursery Director: Olivia Stowe

Midtown Presbyterian Church
www.mpctucson.org
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717
678.849.7918