



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

09.10.2023

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

When you believe in things
That you don't understand,
Then you suffer—
Superstition ain't the way.

--Stevie Wonder

It's like superstition, you know, which is what other people believe.

--W. Somerset Maugham

I'm not superstitious but I'm a little stitious.

--Michael Scott

The Word

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.

Call to Worship

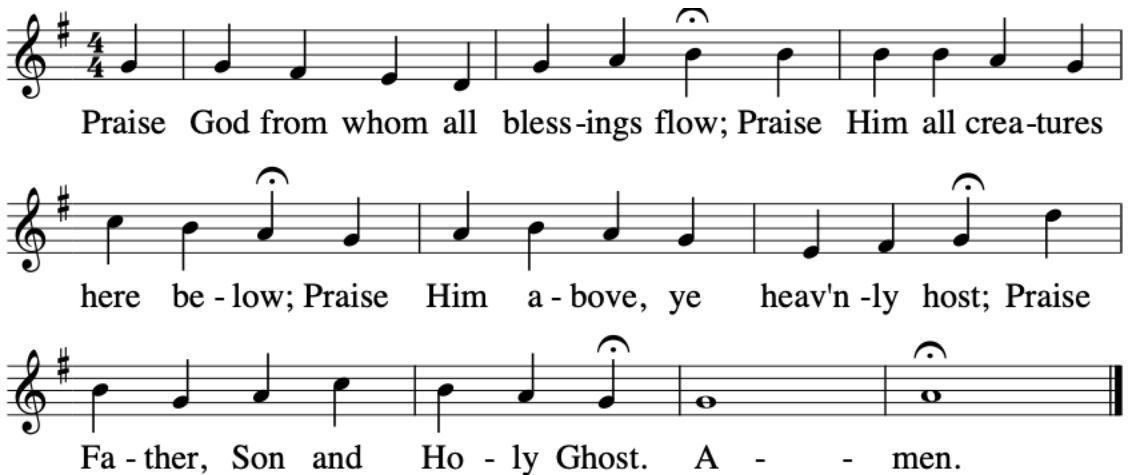
Psalm 96:1-3

Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

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.

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer

Lyrics: Phillip Bliss; Music: Luke Smith

Verse



I will sing of my Re-dee - mer, — and his won-drous love to me.

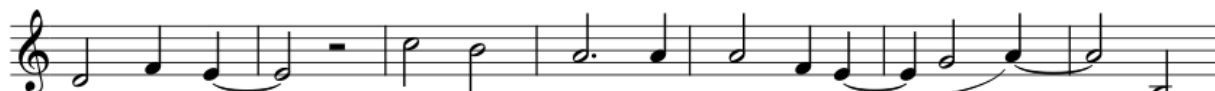


On the cru - el cross he suf - fered, — from the curse to make me free.

Chorus



Sing, oh sing, of my re - deem - er, with his blood — he



pur-chased me. — On the cross, he sealed my par - - don, —



Paid the debt and made me free; —



He paid the debt — and made me free.

I will tell the wondrous story: how my lost estate to save,
In the boundless love and mercy, he the ransom freely gave.

I will praise my dear redeemer, his triumphant pow'r I'll tell,
How the victory he giveth over sin and death and hell.

I will sing of my redeemer, and his heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God with him to be.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

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.]

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. 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

Isaiah 53:5

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

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

8 says; Ev-ry word should joy im-part, change thy mourn-ing in-to

12 praise. Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee, may He help thee _ to be _

14 lieve; Then thou pre-sent-ly will

see, thou hast lit-tle cause to _ grieve.

The musical score is written on a single staff 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, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the staff, with line numbers 4, 8, 12, and 14 indicating the start of each line of text. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

[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.

O Lord, we cry out to you for the Church:

**We pray for the churches in Tucson
that proclaim your gospel.**

(Pray for the church.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for all the people of the earth:

**We pray for those who do not know you;
We pray that your gospel would run in our city.**

(Pray for your friends who don't yet believe the gospel.)

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.

O Lord, we cry out to you for our own nation:

Please give President Biden humility, wisdom, and trust in you. Please bless Governor Ducey and Mayor Romero. Please bring prosperity and peace to our city through your gospel.

(Pray for our leaders.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for the poor and suffering of our community:

We pray for those who are living on the streets. We pray for those who are sick and grieving. We pray for those who are discouraged and despairing.

(Pray for those who suffer.)

All of these things we ask of you in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray 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.

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Megan Stewart]

Psalm 34:8-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 6:44-51

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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 a 6/8 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, 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 features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final cadence.

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.

¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²²Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

²³"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

²⁷If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.

²⁸But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.]

None Will Be Denied

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers

CHORUS



Je - sus Christ took - his hands, spread them o - pen wide,
"Come all ye bro - ken ones None will be - de - nied."

VERSE



I went up to Ga - li - lee, what do you think I'd seen?
Men of dir - ty sin - ners there sit - tin' at Je - sus' feet. *to Chorus*

I went up to Jerusalem, what do you think I saw?
Beaten Jesus through the street, carryin' the big old cross.

They pounded those nails into his hands, they pierced his naked side.
"Father, please forgive them," was what Jesus cried. [Chorus]

Height, nor depth, nor even hell can ever separate;
He burst forth in glorious light on that third day. [Chorus]

The witnesses surround us all, though they seem unseen,
So set your eyes on the prize: Jesus Christ, his name.

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 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 notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;'. The second staff contains: 'pros-trate ly-ing, suf-fring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.'. The third staff contains: 'Vic-tory gain-ing, life ob - tain -ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever
Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

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.

Refugee Ministry Meeting Today: Dre Olivas from Lutheran Social Services will be here to get us ready for working with our new refugee family who will be arriving sometime during the last 2 weeks of September. Plans are for a hispanic family. If you have questions please contact Jeannette Mendoza (jmarg2011@hotmail.com).

Community Food Bank: Midtown Pres. will be volunteering at the Community Food Bank (3003 S Country Club Rd) on September 30 from 9am-12pm to help with assembly line packing of emergency food boxes. Please email or talk to Melissa McRae (melissa.beal89@gmail.com; 520- 780-7879)

Nursery Help: We need a few more volunteers for the nursery/child care ministry to our little ones. If a few more will help out the intervals will be longer and make things easier for us all. Contact Sami Skaare if you can help ((602) 826-4164, sbbyker@gmail.com).

Women's Book Group: Tactics, by Gregory Koukl. Thursday, 9/21, 7pm, at Cara Scott's (2839 E Vespers Pl).

Men's Book Group: Calvin's Institutes, Book 4:14-20, Tuesday 9/12, 7pm, at Matt McReynold's (E Sobre Lomas).