



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

03.10.2024

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**

We shall overcome because of what the Son has undergone in our stead. This isn't an answer to evil; it is a response. Hope is found not in intellectual mastery but in divine solidarity. The cup Jesus drinks is the cup of our suffering, filled with a wine-dark sea of anguish. This is not some cosmic cost-benefit analysis in which God calculates "the greater good." This is the historical scandal of God-become-flesh, taking the evil and injustice of the world—*our* evil and injustice—onto himself and then bursting forth from the grave to announce, as the Puritan John Owen put it, "the death of death." God doesn't give us an answer; he gives us himself.

—Jamie Smith

# The Word

## Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-4

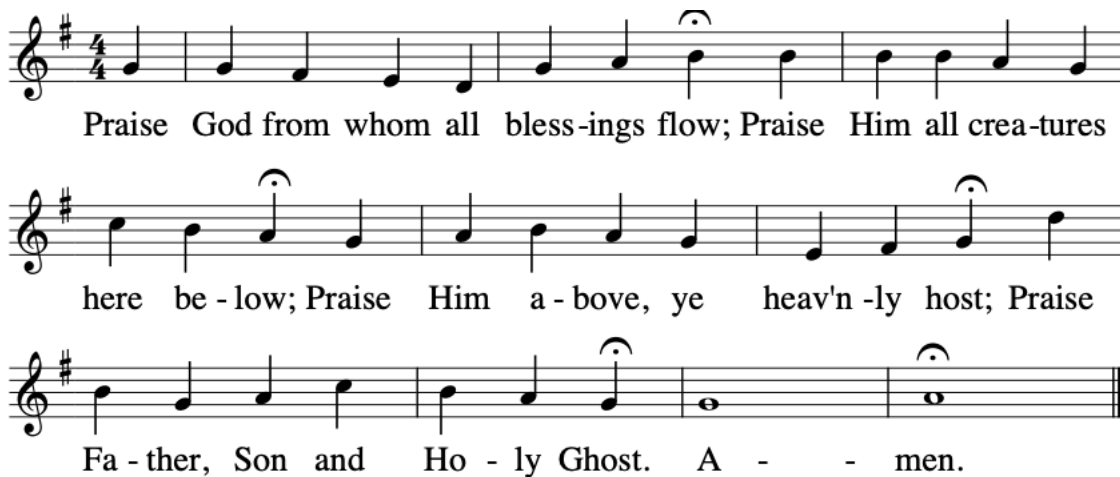
Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth!

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! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to  
be feared 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.

## Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures  
here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise  
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

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.

# All Creatures of our God and King

Lyrics: St. Francis of Assisi; Music: William Draper

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/2 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en beam, thou sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam, O - praise him, O - praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!"

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of ev'ning find a voice! O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care! O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Prayer of Invocation

# Call to Confession of Sin

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Confession of Sin

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

## Most Merciful God

Music & Lyrics: Gregory W. LaFollette



1. Most mer-ci-ful God, — we con-fess — that we have sinned — a-gainst you.



By what we have done — by what we have left — un-done. —



We have not loved — you with our whole — heart our whole — heart.



We have not loved — our neigh-bors as — we've loved our - selves. —

For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy and forgive us;  
That we may delight in your will, your will.  
And walk in your ways, in your ways, in your ways.  
To the glory of your name, of your name, of your name.

Most merciful God, we humbly repent. Help us to walk in your ways,  
Most merciful God, most merciful God. Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

## Psalms 126

Music: Issac Wardell



1. Our mouths they were filled, filled with laugh - ter.  
2. The na - tions will say: "He has done great things!"



Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
the na - tions will sing songs of joy.



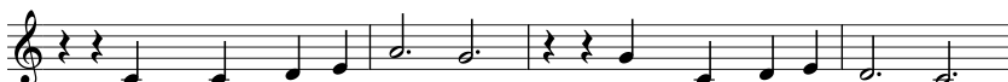
Re-store us, O Lord. Re-store us O Lord.



Although we are weep-ing. Lord help us keep sow - ing



the seeds of your King-dom for the day you will reap them.



Your sheaves we will car - ry. Lord please do not tar - ry.



All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy.

# 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.

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

(Thank Him for His blessings in your life.)

We give thanks to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

**Give grace to our leaders that they may do justice and love mercy and walk humbly before you.**

(Pray for our leaders.)

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

**We pray for the peace and purity and growth of this congregation. We pray for our sister churches in the Arizona Presbytery. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith.**

(Pray for the body of Christ.)

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

**We pray for the spread of the gospel in our city.**

**We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.**

(Pray for those who have not yet come to faith in Christ.)

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

**We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them. We pray for those who are grieving. We pray for those who are lonely. We pray for those who are struggling with enslaving sins.**

(Bring your burdens and requests to the Lord.)

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **New Testament Reading**

[Reader: Anna Hamstra]

Romans 12:19-21

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 10:30-37

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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



# Lord I Need You

Music & Lyrics: Carson, Nockels, Maher, Reeves & Stanfill

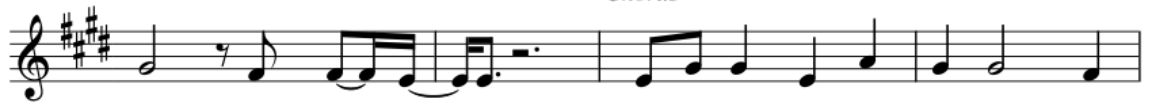


Lord, I come, I con - fess. Bow-ing here, I find my



rest. And with-out you, - I fall a - part. You're the

## *Chorus*



one that guides my heart. Lord, I need you, Oh, I need you.



Ev - 'ry hour I need you. My one de-fense,



my right - eous-ness, Oh, God, how I need - you.

## *Bridge*



So, teach my song to rise to you, When temp - ta-tion comes my way.



When I can-not stand, I'll fall on you, Je-sus, you're my hope and stay.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.  
Where grace is found is where You are.  
Where You are, Lord, I am free! Holiness is Christ in me.

# Old Testament Reading

## Psalm 10

Why, O Lord, do you stand far away?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

**2** In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

**3** For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.

**4** In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;

all his thoughts are, "There is no God."

**5** His ways prosper at all times;

your judgments are on high, out of his sight;

as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

**6** He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;

throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."

**7** His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

**8** He sits in ambush in the villages;

in hiding places he murders the innocent.

His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

**9** he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;

he lurks that he may seize the poor;

he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

**10** The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.

**11** He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,

he has hidden his face, he will never see it."

**12** Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

**13** Why does the wicked renounce God

and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?

**14** But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,

that you may take it into your hands;

to you the helpless commits himself;  
you have been the helper of the fatherless.  
**15** Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;  
call his wickedness to account till you find none.  
**16** The Lord is king forever and ever;  
the nations perish from his land.  
**17** O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;  
you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear  
**18** to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: **That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

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.

## 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 one of the aisles. 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 same aisle.]

# Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lyrics: Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music: Christopher Miner

The musical score is written on four staves in 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day".

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the  
sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a  
home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the  
burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess;  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

# 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]

## 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](http://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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**Men's Book Group:** Our book for March 12th is C.S. Lewis's Reflections on the Psalms. Read up!

**Women's Book Group:** Our March book is Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez.

**Good Friday Service:** We will meet at 6pm on Good Friday at the North end of Himmel Park for our Good Friday service. It will be getting dark, so bring a phone or tablet with the bulletin we will send out that week. The service is a reflection on Jesus' last words on the cross.

