



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Second Sunday After Christmas

01.03.2021

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

Division has done more to hide Christ from the view of men than all the infidelity that has ever been spoken.

—George MacDonald

I have often wondered that persons who make boast of professing the Christian religion—namely love, joy, peace, temperance, and charity to all men—should quarrel with such rancorous animosity, and display daily towards one another such bitter hatred, that this, rather than the virtues which they profess, is the readiest criteria of their faith.

—Benedict Spinoza

The Word

Call to Worship

Revelation 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

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 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.

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.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Traditional

Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where; -



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

Verse



While shep - hers kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -



hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light -

The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

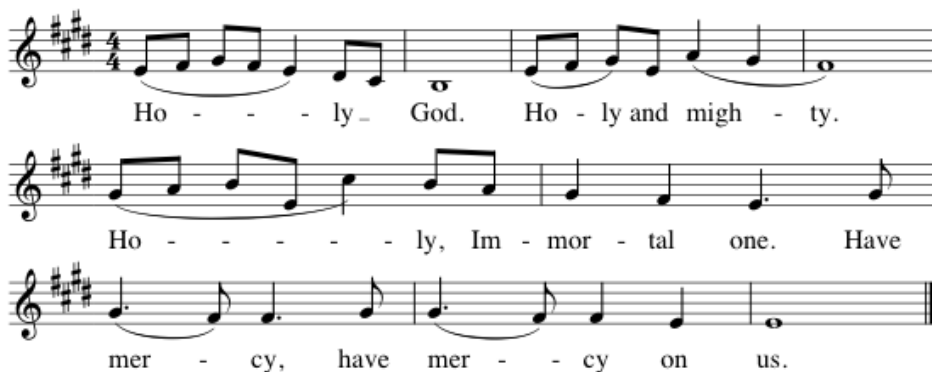
Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to you, Lord Jesus, and I believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I cling to you and am made sure, for you have promised that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life. Even if my conscience is troubled and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, you have still assured me that my sins have been forgiven on account of your name. I cannot help myself and so come to you for help. Amen.

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

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.

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and might - ty.
Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have
mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

We Are Not Overcome

—Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell & Robert Heiskell



Flesh will fail _ and bones will break; thieves will steal, _ the earth will



shake. Night will fall, _ the light will fade; _ the Lord will give, and take a

Refrain



way; Be-cause of His great _ love, we are not o-ver-come!



Be-cause of His great _ love we are not o-ver-come!

Put no trust in the earth, in the sod you stand upon.

Flowers fade into dust;

The Lord will make a place for us. [Refrain]

Have no fear for your life, Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath. [Refrain]

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.

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.)

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.)

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 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.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 133:1-3

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 17:20-23

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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]

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Reader: 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.**

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 and confessions 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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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 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.]

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Lyrics: Kate Wilkinson; Music: A. Cyril Barham-Gold



May the mind of Christ my Sa-vior, live in me from day to day,
by his love and pow'r con-troll-ing all_ I do_ or say.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph only through his pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing: this is victory.

May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

Be Thou My Vision

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Irish Hymn



Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my heart.



Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.



Thou my best thought, by day or by night, —



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight; Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r; Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.

Midtown Institute: During 2021 we are going to hold a training class for people interested in taking on more leadership in our church, whether as a ministry team leader, small group leader, elder or deacon, or if you just want to be better prepared to serve Christ in your home and work. The class will cover our church’s beliefs, perspectives on ministry, personal character and spiritual life. We will meet 20 times during the year and you’ll need to do a good bit of reading/preparation. We will set the meeting days/times once we have a list of participants. Please let Charles know if you want to be a part.

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

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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