



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

02.14.2021

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 aren't having a nursery for a couple of more weeks. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you, though.

Reflection

I think that for many years I looked at life like a case at law, a series of proofs. When you're young you prove how brave you are, or smart; then, what a good lover; then a good father; finally, how wise, or powerful, or whatever. But underlying it all, I see now, there was a presumption. That I was moving on an upward path toward some elevation, where—God knows what—I would be justified, or even condemned—a verdict anyway. I think now that my disaster really began when I looked up one day—and the bench was empty. No judge in sight. And all that remained was this endless argument with oneself—this pointless litigation of existence before an empty bench. Which, of course, is another way of saying—despair.

--Arthur Miller

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 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

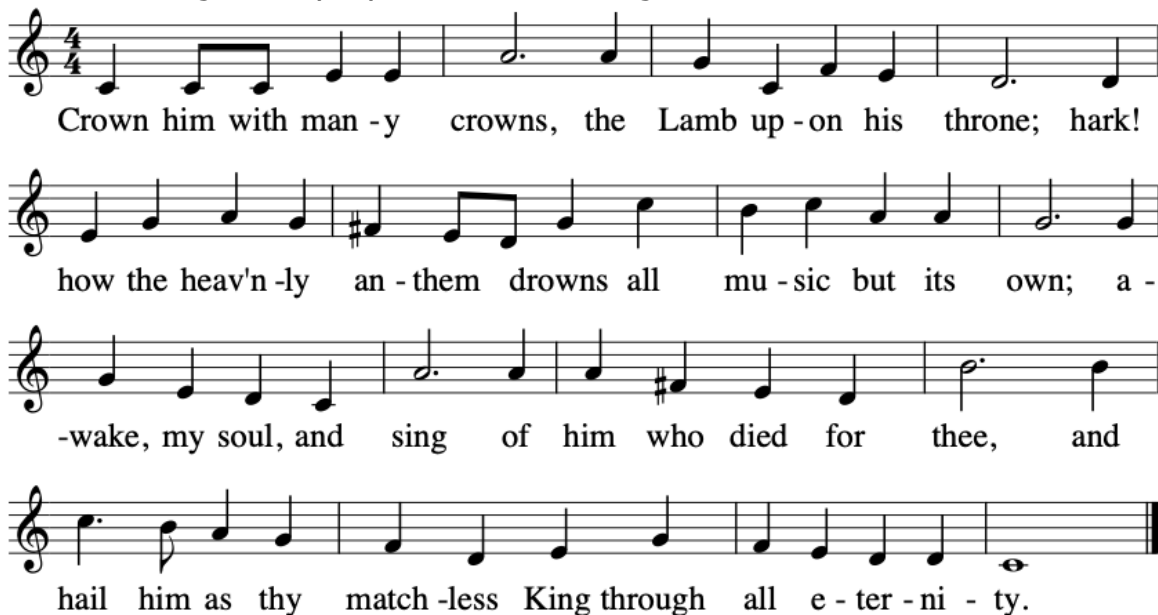
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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.

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Music: George J. Elvy; Lyrics: Matthew Bridges



Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!
how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
-wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight
But downward bends each burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace! Whose power a sceptre sways;
From pole to pole that wars may cease and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years; the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail Redeemer hail, for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Prayer of Invocation

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.

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 64:6-7

We have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together.]

Lord,

I worry because I forget your wisdom.

I resent because I forget your mercy.

I covet because I forget your beauty.

I sin because I forget your holiness.

I fear because I forget your sovereignty.

You always remember me. Help me to remember you.

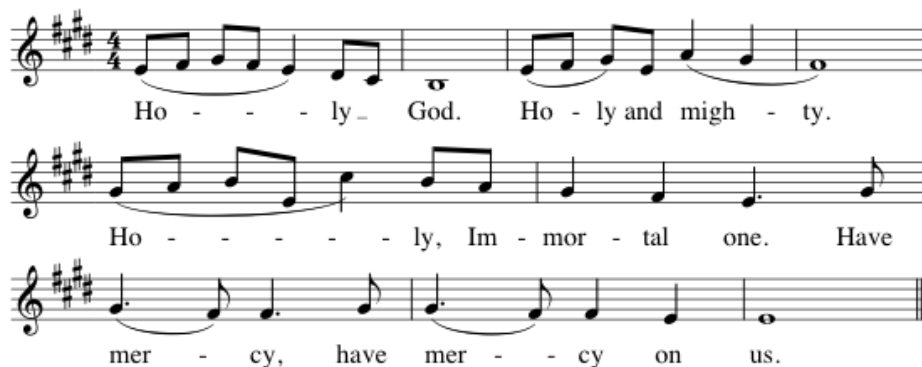
Amen.

We confess our sin with the bold confidence that you will continue to love us. You will not reject. You will not abandon. You will forgive.

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

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 63:16

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Jesus Paid It All

—Lyrics & Music: Elvina M. Hall



I - hear the Sav-ior say, "Thy strength in-deed is small, child of
weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
Chorus
Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crim-son stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.

[Bridge] O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead;
O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead!

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.

Most gracious God,
who has promised to reveal His glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for Your church.

**Bless all the ministers of Your word and sacraments
and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for the Church.). Amen.

Lord God of our fathers,
who has promised to take care of our every need,

Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons.

**Grant all in authority over us
wisdom and strength to do Your will
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for our world.). Amen.

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.

Most merciful Father,
comfort all who believe the good news of Your grace.

**We pray for all who are distressed:
the poor,
the homeless,
the sick,
the bereaved,
and those afflicted in body and mind.
Comfort and relieve them according to Your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for all who suffer.). Amen.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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: Raegan Watkins]

Isaiah 8:11-15

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:17-19

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

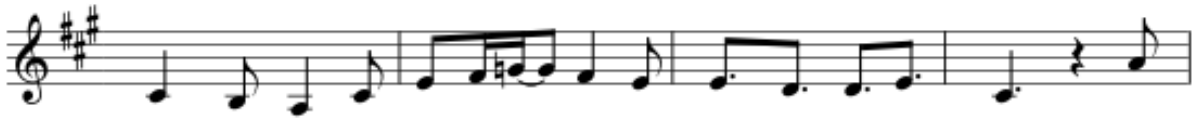
People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Our Great God

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega & Mac Powell



E - ter-nal God, un - chang _____ing, my - ster - ious and un - known. Your



bound - less love un - fail _____ing, in grace and mer - cy shown. Bright



ser - a - phim in cease - less flight a - round your glor - ious throne. They



raise their voi - ces day _____and night in praise to you a - lone.

Chorus



Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great



God. Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great God.

Lord, we are weak and frail, and helpless in the storm;
Surround us with Your angels and hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field, and valley of the earth,
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God, Who rules them by his word.

New Testament Reading

Romans 16:17-27

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ¹⁹ For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. ²² I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Reader: 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 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.]

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Music: Laura Taylor; Lyrics: John Newton



Let us love and sing _ and won-der, let us praise the Savior's _ name.



He has hushed the law's _ loud thun-der, He has quenched Mount Si -



nai's _ flame. He has washed us with his blood, _ He has



washed us with his blood, _ He has washed us with his blood .



_ He has brought us nigh to God. _

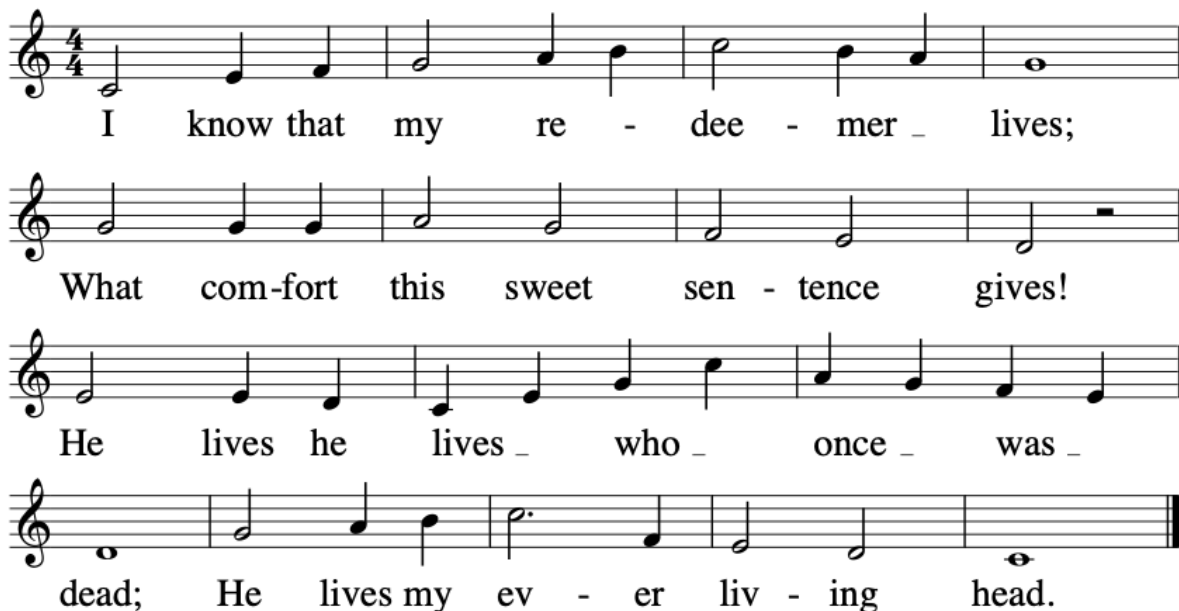
Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us;
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



I know that my re - dee - mer - lives;
What com-fort this sweet sen - tence gives!
He lives he lives - who - once - was -
dead; He lives my ev - er liv - ing head.

He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives and I shall conquer death;
He lives and while I live I'll sing, He lives my prophet, priest, and king.

He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save,
What joy this bless'd assurance gives; I know that my redeemer lives.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

As God has the first word in our worship service, he also has the last. The Benediction is given so you will leave church with the words of God's grace and favor ringing in your ears, and know how deeply he loves you.

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.

Women’s Bible Study: will resume in March.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

Ash Wednesday: We aren’t going to try to do an imposition of the ashes service this year due to the virus. Rest assured, as the pandemic has reminded us all year, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Women’s Event: Embodied Women and Kingdom Mission: Honest Conversations about Sexuality and Gender Roles. Next Saturday, February 20 at 10am there will be a women’s only discussion about sexuality, gender roles, and women in the church. This is an RUF hosted event that is open to women of all ages in the church that are interested in this topic. Coffee and light snacks will be provided. The event will take place in the backyard of Dan and Brittany Smith (3202 E. Pima St.)

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

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

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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