



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflection

Idols always promise a bit extra—or perhaps a lot extra. An idol starts off as something good, a good part of God’s creation. But when it attracts attention and begins to offer more than it can appropriately deliver, it starts to demand sacrifices. You have to abandon part of your proper allegiance to God—and often to your neighbors, your family, your other duties—in order to give fresh and inappropriate attention to the new idol, whatever it is.

—N. T. Wight

Man is born free but is everywhere in chains.

—Jean-Jaques Rousseau

Evening Worship

Second Sunday After Pentecost

06.02.2024

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. All of our kiddos will meet in the Hamilton House. Check in is at the west end of the courtyard. Children's Ministry will only be ages 0-3 for the summer. August 4th we will kick off Children's Ministry for ages 0-6th grade. Please be patient with the extra wiggles and noise as we have younger children joining us for the summer.

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

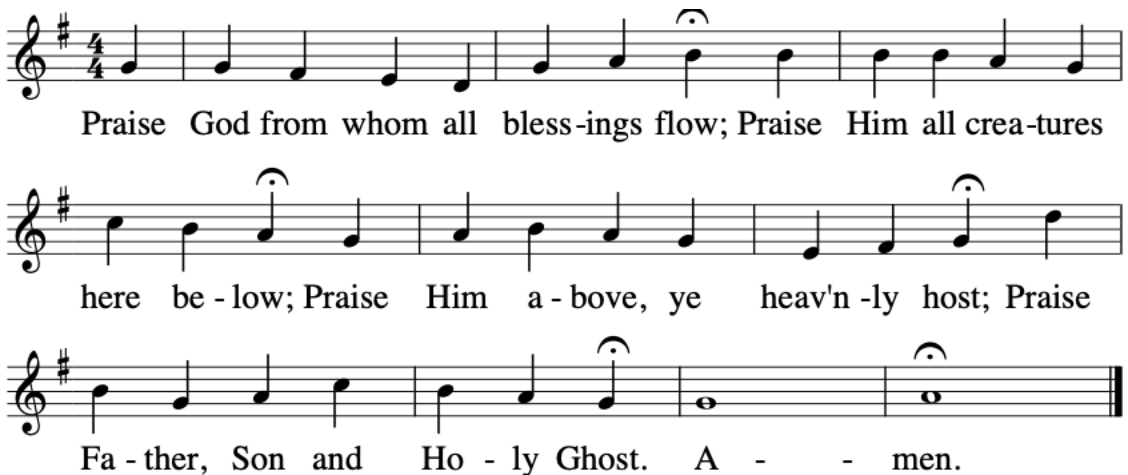
Psalm 84:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

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

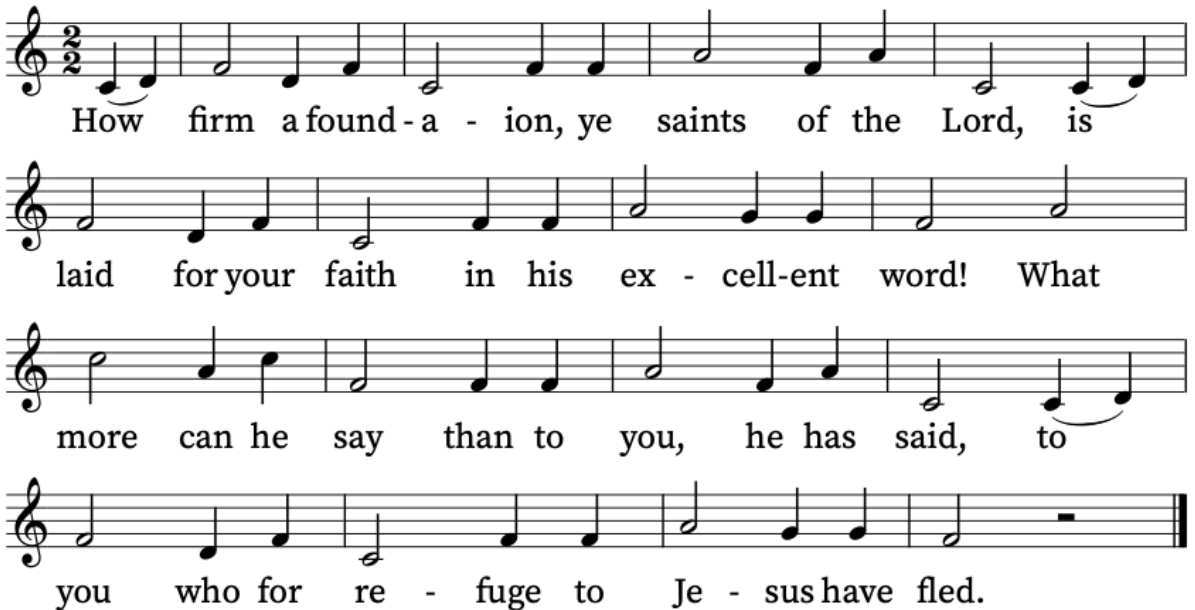
Music: The Old One Hundredth



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.

How Firm A Foundation

Music & Lyrics: Traditional



How firm a found-a - ion, ye saints of the Lord, is
laid for your faith in his ex - cell-ent word! What
more can he say than to you, he has said, to
you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled.

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14-15

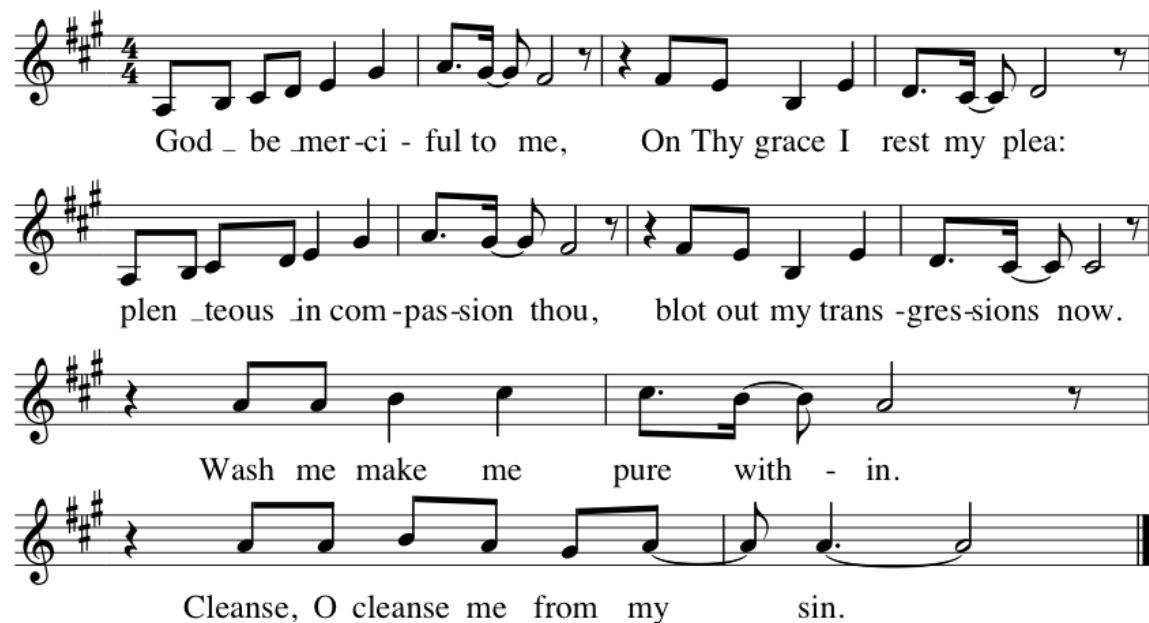
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Confession of Sin

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

Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God _ be _mer-ci - ful to me, On Thy grace I rest my plea:
plen _teous in com-pas-sion thou, blot out my trans -gres-sions now.
Wash me make me pure with - in.
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Psalms 51 (Continues)

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgement just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.
From my sins, oh, hide thy face: Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from thee; let Thy spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart: Steadfast make my willing heart.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Tim Davis]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God,

that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We especially pray for the healing of our doctrinal and racial divisions.

(Please pray silently for the unity of the Church.)

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the ways of justice and peace;

**that we may honor one another
and serve the common good.**

(Please pray silently for justice and peace in all nations.)

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,

**and grant that we may serve them,
and love one another as Christ loves us.**

(Please pray silently for our love and service of others.)

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
**give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples 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.

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Anna Hamstra]

2 Peter 2:18-19

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 8:31-38

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

The Dreadful Tree

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Waters

Jesus cast a look on me, Give me sweet simplicity.
Make me poor and keep me low, Seeking only You to know,
Seeking only You to know.

All that feeds my busy pride, Cast it evermore aside.
Bid my will to Yours submit; Lay me humbly at Your feet,
Lay me humbly at Your feet.

Refrain: For way over yonder on the dreadful tree,
Way over yonder on the dreadful tree,
You shed your blood and you died for me.

Make me like a little child, Of my strength and wisdom spoiled.
Seeing only in Your light; Walking only in Your might,
Walking only in Your might.

Leaning on Your loving breast, Where a weary soul can rest.
Feeling well the peace of God, Flowing from Your precious blood,
Flowing from Your precious blood [Refrain]

In this posture let me live, And hosannas daily give.
In this temper let me die, And hosannas ever cry,
And hosannas ever cry. [Refrain]

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14:10-31

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." ¹⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." ¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel

went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

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

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 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.]

Till He Come

Lyrics: Edward Henry Bickersteth; Music: Ghost of Caroline

Till he come! O let the words
Linger on the trembling chords;
Let the little while between
In their golden light be seen;
Let us think how heav'n and home
Lie beyond that "Till he come."

When the weary ones we love
Enter on their rest above,
Seems the earth so poor and vast,
All our life joy overcast?
Hush, be ev'ry murmur dumb:
It is only till he come.

Clouds and conflicts round us press:
Would we have one sorrow less?
All the sharpness of the cross,
All that tells the world is loss,
Death and darkness, and the tomb,
Only whisper "Till he come."

See, the feast of love is spread,
Drink the wine, and break the bread:
Sweet memorials, till the Lord
Call us round his heav'nly board;
Some from earth, from glory some,
Severed only till he come.

Jesus What a Friend For Sinners

Arrangement: Luke Smith

Je - sus! What a friend for sin - ners! — Je - sus! Lo - ver
of my soul. — Friends may fail me foes as - sail me, — He my
Sav - ior makes me whole. — Hal - le - lu — jah! What a
Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! What a friend! — Sav - ing,
help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, — He is with me to the end. —

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one flat) and 9/8 time. It features a melody with various rhythmic values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined. The score ends with a double bar line.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He my strength my vict'ry wins.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll;
Even when my heart is breaking, He, my Comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus I do now receive him, More than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his and he is mine.

Benediction



God makes a path through the Red Sea. Exodus 14:1-31

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). —>>



2024 Budget through April:	\$94,951.	2023 Comparison:
2024 Giving through April:	\$70,597	\$105,021

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 Team Meeting: Tonight after the service. For anyone who has been involved with our refugee family or is interested in getting involved.

Men's Book Group: The book for June is C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters. Meeting details to follow.

Thanks From Food Bank: Thanks to everyone who came out to volunteer at the Food Bank yesterday—and to Cara Scott and Melissa McRae for organizing us!

Joining Midtown: If you're interested in becoming a member of Midtown, either coming from a different church or becoming a new Christian, please let Charles know (charles@mpctucson.org). We'll schedule an intro class to get you prepared when we see people's availability.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Children's Director: Annalyse Rash
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

Midtown Presbyterian Church
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