



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

03.14.2021

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 have a nursery provided for little ones. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

Who among us isn't looking for relief in a world where intimacy is risky, hard, high-investment, and sometimes terribly wounding? Lust feels easier and more comfortable—like an emotional pick-me-up, or a pleasant vacation without the planning or the price tag. Other times, our need to belong, to feel accepted, and to connect with others can lure us into the land of lust's false promises. Or perhaps we are scraping our own way toward satiety because the relationships we have don't feel like they will ever be enough, or we are nursing wounds from the past. When we feel rejected or don't feel lovable, we are tempted to withdraw to more superficial forms of sexual encounter, because they feel safer somehow. Such distancing—even if it dehumanizes—leaves us feeling more in control. Lust looks best, therefore, when we are most starved for love.

—Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung

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 96:1-4

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.

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.

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove _ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love _ and all his great -ness show!



Praise him for his no -ble deeds! _ Praise him for his match -less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro -ceeds, let earth and hea -ven a - dore, let

Chorus



earth and hea -ven a - dore! Praise the name _ of Christ, cel - e -



brate _ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord _ of life!



We'll sing the sto -ry of hon -or and glo -ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
We'll sing the story of honor and glory, and praise the name!
[Chorus]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

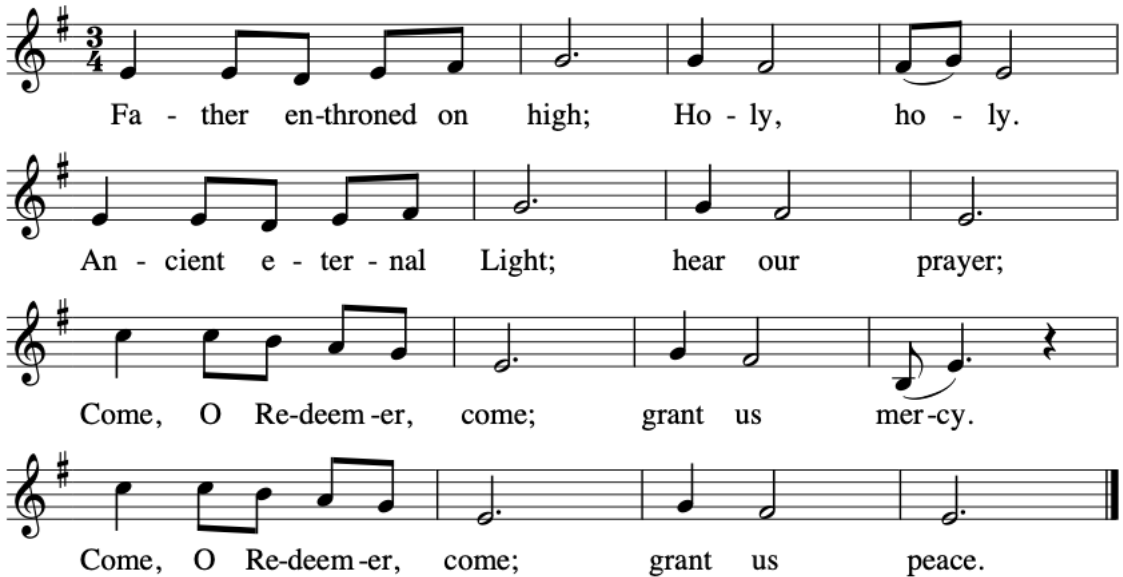
Confession of Sin

[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.

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega



Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 3:23-24

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Our consciences are weak and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness. So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

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 each staff. 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.

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.)

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.

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 Rich]

1 Thessalonians 4:2-5

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:27-30

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.

Old Testament Reading

Song of Solomon 4:9-16

You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride;
you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes,
with one jewel of your necklace.

10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!
How much better is your love than wine,
and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

11 Your lips drip nectar, my bride;
honey and milk are under your tongue;
the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

12 A garden locked is my sister, my bride,
a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates
with all choicest fruits, henna with nard,

14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,
with all trees of frankincense,

myrrh and aloes,
with all choice spices—

15 a garden fountain, a well of living water,
and flowing streams from Lebanon.

16 Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind!
Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow.

She

Let my beloved come to his garden,
and eat its choicest fruits.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.

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.]

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.]

O Sacred Head

Lyrics: James W. Alexander; Music: J.S. Bach



O sa-cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed
down. Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed, with thorns thine on - ly
crown; O sa - cred head what glo - ry, what bliss till now was
thine. Yet, though _de-spised and go - ry, I joy to call thee mine

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain.
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior; 'tis I deserve thy place.
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



O how he takes _ the cross, O how he lifts _ it up



to take the weight from us. O how he pays _ the cost,



O how he drinks the cup, to make a place _ for us.

CHORUS



Take us, _ O Lord, and all we have known. Shape us, O



Lord, and form us in - to your own. Take eve - ry heart and



know eve-ry sin. Break us, O Lord, that we may be whole a - gain.

Hear how he breaks the curse, hear how he cries aloud,
Hear how his voice resounds. O how he forms the words,
O how he cries them out, "See it is finished now!"

How deep the wounds he wears, how dark the scars he shows,
How well the name he knows; written upon his palms,
O what a name to find. That name before him: Mine!

Benediction

Easter Offering Leboo Borehole

We want to raise
\$25,000 to dig a
bore hole for
Leboo, Kenya

For the Children's Sake has been given five acres of land on which to build a school and church, but first needs a supply of clean water so the Massai children can live there year round.

A bore hole facilitates many other relief needs, especially for girls in this area. With clean water they can use washable feminine hygiene products, go to school, more easily avoid genital mutilation, and connect to the good news of Jesus.

Contribute by writing a check to Midtown Presbyterian Church (noting the Borehole Project) or by giving online at www.mpctucson.org/donate.



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: Our first meeting will be next Sunday morning, March 21st, from 9:00-10:30 in the Youth Building just off of the playground here at the Vineyard. We plan to meet every other week. Let Charles know if you are interested in being part of it.

Good Friday Service: We will have our Good Friday service here on April 2nd at 7:00pm.

Women’s Bible Study: Meets Wednesday night a 7:00 at the Garland’s patio (1324 N Norton Ave). We are on Romans 12:1-8, and the corresponding chapter in Tim Keller’s book on Romans (7) for those reading that, too.

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

Directory Pictures: If your picture isn’t in the directory please send one to Nancy Price (253-293-4787). The directory is on the website behind the password “dryheat”.

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

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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