



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

04.15.2018

Welcome to Worship at Midtown!

We are just starting our corporate worship services, and are really glad to have you with us. 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 in the patio room. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Worship Note

Christian worship faces this disturbing reality head-on, recognizing the gap between what we think we love and what we really love, what still propels us toward rival gods and rival visions of the good life. This is why the people of God are called to regularly confess their sins. A historic confession from the Book of Common Prayer names just this tension:

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much **the devices and desires of our own hearts.***

The body of Christ is that unique community of practice whose members own up to the fact that we don't always love what we say we do— that the “devices and desires” of our hearts outstrip our best intentions. The practices of Christian worship are a tangible, practiced, re-formative way to address this tension and gap.

—James K.A. Smith

Reflection

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

—C.S. Lewis

The Word

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:1-3

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

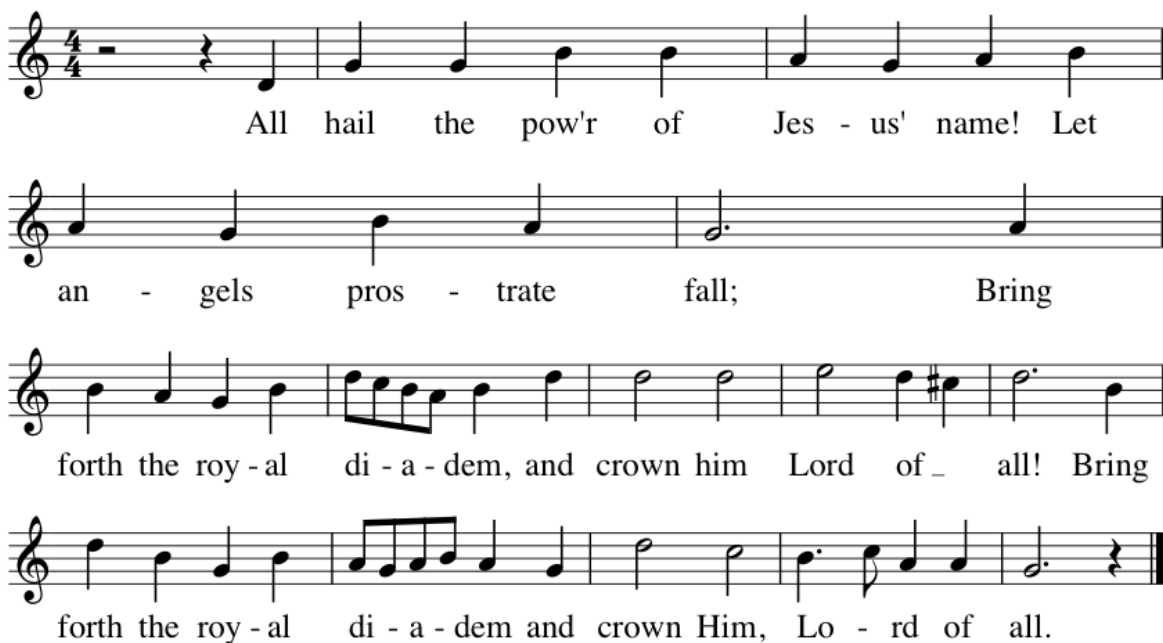
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Lyrics: Edward Perronet ; Music: Oliver Holden



All hail the pow'r of Jes - us' name! Let
an - gels pros - trate fall; Bring
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring
forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown Him, Lo - rd of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall
Join in the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all
Join in the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 8:31-34

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

Confession of Sin *Please pray aloud together*

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Lord.
Christ, have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

Before the Throne of God Above

Lyrics: Charitie Lee Bancroft; Music: Vikki Cook

Be - - fore the throne
of God a-bove, I have a strong and per-fect plea;
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who-ev-er lives and pleads for me.
My name is gra-ven on his hands, my name is writ-ten on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tounge can bid me thence de-part,
no tounge can bid me thence de-part.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a 7-measure rest. The music is a simple melody with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the seventh staff.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within;
Upward I look, and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I AM," The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die; My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.

The Prayers of the People

(Please pray the italicized 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 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 1:8-9

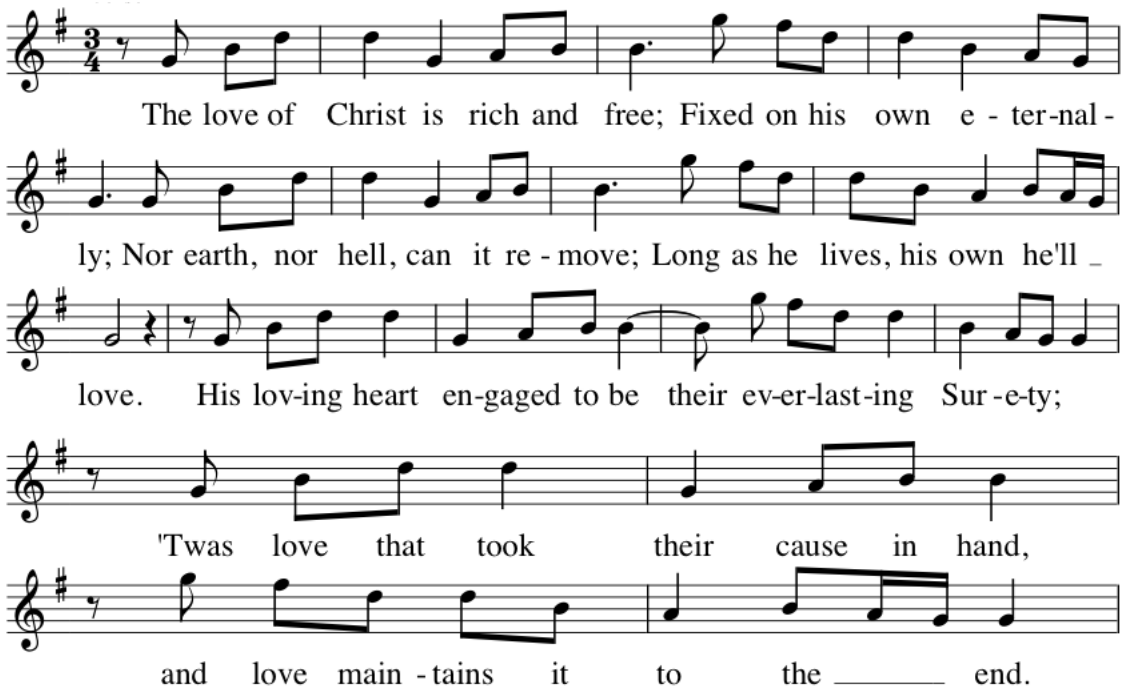
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Offertory Prayer

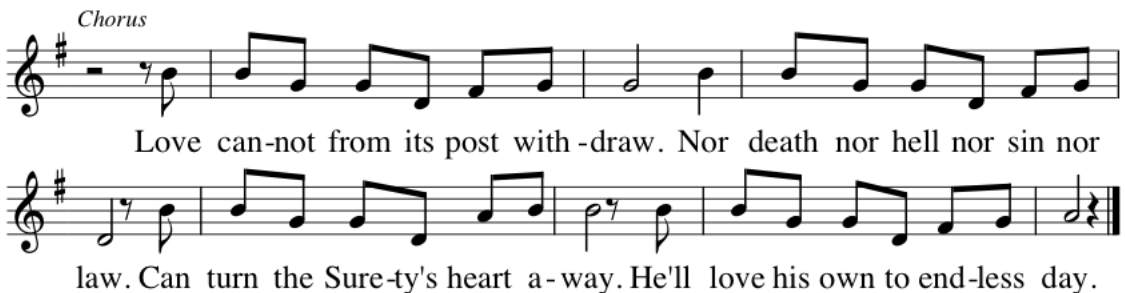
The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

Lyrics: William Gadsby; Music: Sandra McCracken



The love of Christ is rich and free; Fixed on his own e - ter-nal -
ly; Nor earth, nor hell, can it re - move; Long as he lives, his own he'll -
love. His lov-ing heart en-gaged to be their ev-er-last-ing Sur-e-ty;
'Twas love that took their cause in hand,
and love main - tains it to the _____ end.

Chorus



Love can-not from its post with-draw. Nor death nor hell nor sin nor
law. Can turn the Sure-ty's heart a - way. He'll love his own to end-less day.

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood,
and love will bring them safe to God.
Love calls them all from death to life,
and love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
nor aught from Him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart,
can make His love for her depart. *Chorus*

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love;
In endless bliss, His own shall prove,
The blazing glory of that love,
which never could from them remove,
which never could from them remove.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:44-46

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
People: *Praise be to you, O Christ.*

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 using the prayers provided below as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.]

Sursum Corda

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.

Words of Institution

Mystery of Faith

Minister: Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

*All: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!*

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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 provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Music and Lyrics by Stuart Townsend

5 How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all mea -

9 sure, that he should give his on-ly Son to make a wretch his trea -

13 sure. How great the pain of sear-ing loss, the Fa-ther turns his face a -

15 way; as wounds which mar the Cho - sen

One bring ma - ny sons to glo - - ry.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five lines of music. The first line starts with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with line numbers 5, 9, 13, and 15 indicating the start of each line of text. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; his wounds have paid my ransom.

Thy Mercy My God

--Lyrics: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Thy Mercy My God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a 7-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme _ of my song, the'. The second staff continues with 'joy of my heart and the boast _ of my tongue; Thy'. The third staff continues with 'free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath'. The fourth staff concludes with 'won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme _ of my song, the
joy of my heart and the boast _ of my tongue; Thy
free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath
won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

Benediction

Silent Prayers During Communion

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed): Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Taking Communion: Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the Joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, you have called me to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Email List

Please sign up for our email list so we can keep you apprised of Midtown goings on, or just send your address to charles@mpctucson.org.

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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