



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10.22.2023

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

We're living in the middle of some sort of vast emotional, relational and spiritual crisis. It is as if people across society have lost the ability to see and understand one another, thus producing a culture that can be brutalizing and isolating.

—David Brooks

My friends tell me I have an intimacy problem, but they don't really know me.

—Gary Shandling

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

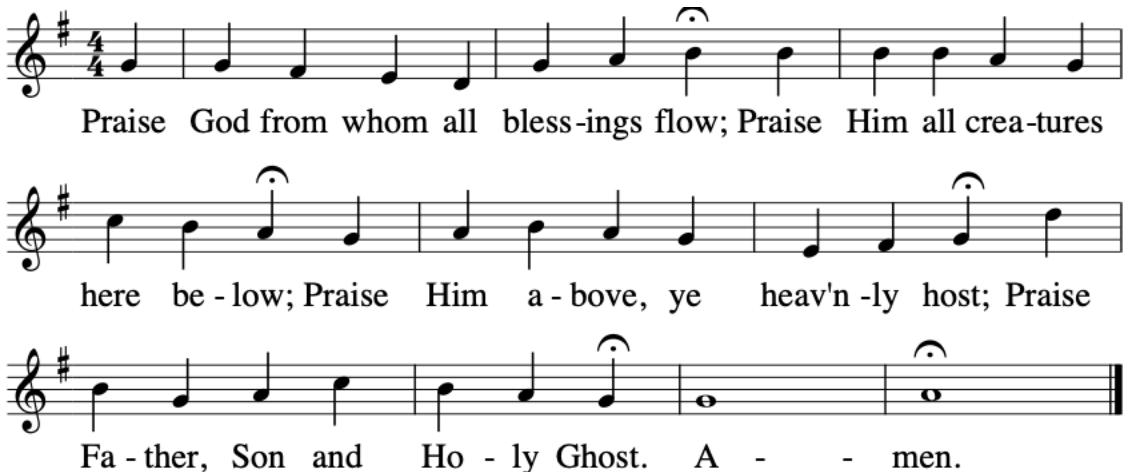
Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

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

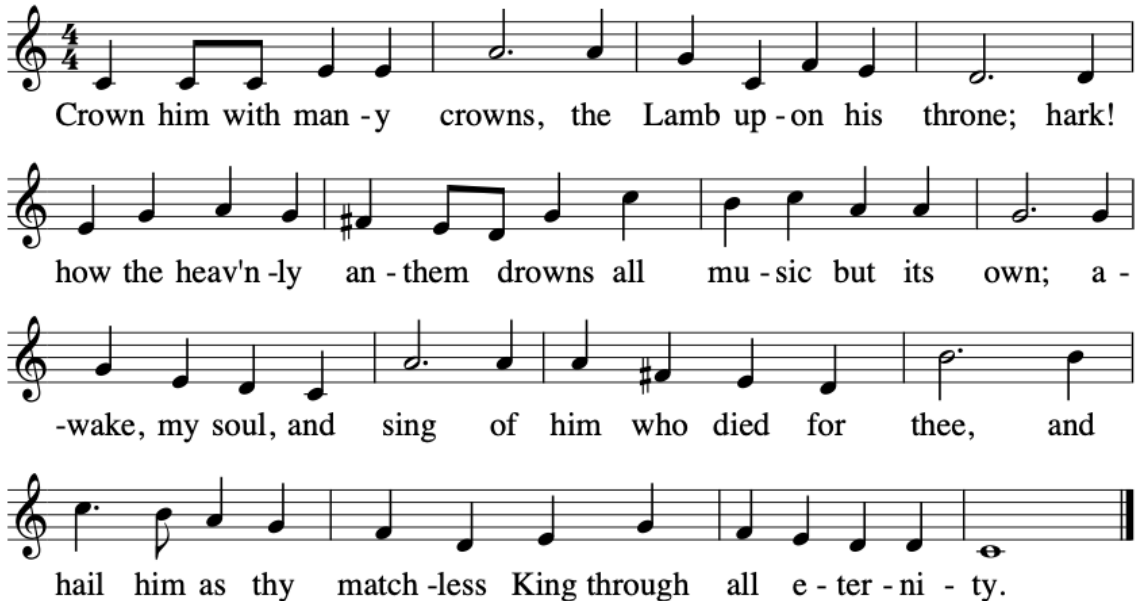
Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. 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 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 his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs 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

Call to Confession of Sin

Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

O Father, relieve our consciences, now and in the hour of our death, from the terror of our guilt and the fear of your judgment. Let your peace come into our hearts that we may await your judgment with joy. Be not severe in your judgment of us, or no one will be found righteous. Teach us, dear Father, not to trust or find comfort in our own merits or good works. But teach us to venture and resign ourselves faithfully and firmly to your infinite mercy. In the same manner, let us not lose courage because of our guilty and sinful lives. Let us regard your mercy as higher and broader and stronger than all our being. 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.



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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William Runyan; Lyrics: Thomas Chisholm



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;



Thou chang - est not, thy comp - pas - sions they fail not;



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [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.

God, our Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, our Sympathetic High Priest,
and Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide,

We pray for grace and mercy for your church,
that we would be unified in mind and purpose.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace and mercy for our children,
**that they would know you, love you,
and follow you all the days of their lives.**

(Please pray silently for our children.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

[Led by Tim Davis]

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.

We pray for grace and mercy for those struggling with faith,
**that you would be present in the midst of their
struggles and make known to them your transforming
love in the gospel.**

(Please pray silently for those struggling with faith.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace and mercy for those who suffer,
**that you would comfort them in their pain
and bring healing according to your will.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And hear us now as we pray in the words he taught us:

**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: Stephanie Bowyer]

Isaiah 54:4-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:32-36

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus I Come

Music: Greg Thompson; Lyrics: William Sleeper

Out of my bon - dage, sor-row and night, Je-sus I come;
Je-sus I come. _ In - to thy free - dom, glad-ness and light
Je-sus I come to thee. _ Out of my sick-ness in - to thy
health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth, out of my
sin _ and in - to thy - self, Je-sus I _ come to thee. _

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,

Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,

Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above,

Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus I come to Thee.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4b

Love is kind...

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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 every Lord's Day.

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.]

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 the center aisle.. 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 outside aisles.]

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Lyrics: Samuel Travis Francis; Music: Thomas John Williams

O the ___ deep, deep love of ___ Je - sus. Vast, un - mea - sured,
bound - less, free. Roll - ing ___ as a might - y ___ o - cean
in its ___ full - ness o - ver me. Un - der - neath me,
all a - round me, is the ___ cur - rent of Thy ___ love.
Lead - ing _ on - ward, lead - ing ___ home - ward,
to my ___ glo - rious rest _ a - bove.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus". It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth, Changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, Died to call them all his own;
For them he intercedeth, Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, For it lifts me up to thee.

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Lyrics: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner

4 On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and
7 cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and
11 hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am
14 bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am
bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and'. The second staff continues with 'cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and'. The third staff has 'hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am'. The fourth staff has 'bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am'. The fifth staff concludes with 'bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful
shore; Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

Benediction

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). —>>



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.

Nursery Help: We need a few more volunteers for the nursery/child care ministry to our little ones. If a few more will help out the intervals will be longer and make things easier for us all. Contact Sami Skaare if you can help: (602) 826-4164, sbbyker@gmail.com.

Church Potluck: Our next potluck is October 22. Please bring your favorite dishes to share! Sign up sheet is at this link—>



Shower for Stephanie Barrett: Come celebrate Stephanie and her upcoming wedding at the Esswein house on Sunday November 5th at 9am. Annalyse Rash has more details. All Midtown women are welcome!

November Combined Book Group: November 14th at the McReynolds' home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). Reading The Phantom of the Opera.

Women's Night—Bread making: 10/28 @ 6:30 pm, also at the McReynolds' home. Bring a large mixing bowl for your dough so you can bake it Sunday morning.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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