



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

11.21.2021

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

Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither.

—C. S. Lewis

Authority intoxicates, and makes mere sots of magistrates. The fumes of it invade the brain and make men giddy, proud and vain.

—Samuel Butler

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

Revelation 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

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



The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 6, 10, and 14 indicated on the left. The score ends with a double bar line.

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.
14

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

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

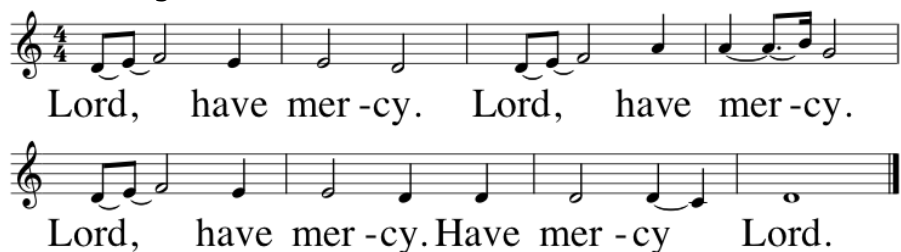
We confess our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust.

We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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!

The Love of God

Lyrics & Music: Matt Fredrich Martin Lehman

The love of God is great-er _ far than tongue or pen can ev-er
tell. It goes be-yond the high-est star, and reach-es to _ the low-est _
hell. The guilt-y pair, bowed down with care. God gave his Son _ to _
win. His err-ing child, he re-con - ciled, and par-doned from _ his _
Refrain
sin. O love of God, how rich and _ pure; how mea-sure - less _ and
strong. It shall for-ev-more en - dure the saints and an - gels _ song.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Love of God'. It consists of six staves of music in 4/4 time, written on a single treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first five staves contain the main body of the hymn, and the sixth staff is marked 'Refrain'. The music is simple and melodic, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'The love of God is great-er _ far than tongue or pen can ev-er tell. It goes be-yond the high-est star, and reach-es to _ the low-est _ hell. The guilt-y pair, bowed down with care. God gave his Son _ to _ win. His err-ing child, he re-con - ciled, and par-doned from _ his _ sin. O love of God, how rich and _ pure; how mea-sure - less _ and strong. It shall for-ev-more en - dure the saints and an - gels _ song.'

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Tho' stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men, who here, refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints' and angels' song. [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.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, since You
have promised to grant our requests, we make
our supplications to You in the name of Your Son,
Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence).

Amen.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to
be wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (silence).

Amen.

[Led by Nick 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.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving
grace through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence).
Amen.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence).
Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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.**

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Frances Willberg]

2 Timothy 4:16-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

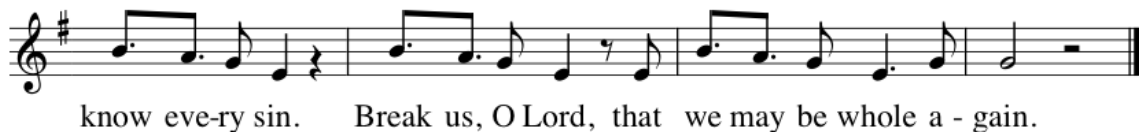
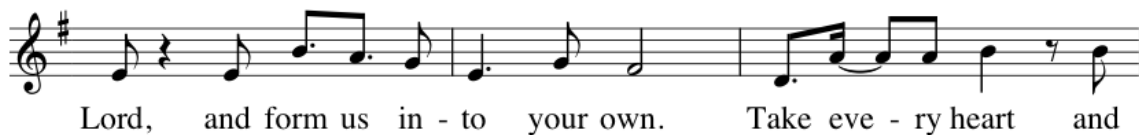
People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



CHORUS



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!

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 6:1-28

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

⁶Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

¹⁰When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹Then these

men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³ Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." ¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed." ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" ¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast

into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for he is the living God, enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."

²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

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.

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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.]

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into several lines of music, with the chorus section labeled 'Chorus' and a repeat sign at the end.

Your la - bor - is not in - vain though the
ground un - der-neath you is cursed and - stained. Your
plant - ing and reap - ing are ne - ver the same, - but your
Chorus
la - bor is not ____ in vain. For I am
- to verse 2
with you. I am with you. I am with you. I am
with you. For I have called you, called you by name. - your
la - bor is not ____ in vain.

Your labor is not unknown,
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,
But your labor is not unknown [chorus]

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit;
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth;
For all that is old will at last be made new,
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit [chorus]

The houses you labor to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled;
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed [chorus]

We Will Feast In the House of Zion

Lyrics and Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther, We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up.'

We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our
hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther,
We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be
burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not con-
sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the Faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom!

Benediction

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.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:00 at the U of A Mall.

Holiday Donations: We’re collecting donations through Thursday, December 2, 2021 for care packages for students. We need microwave popcorn, coffee/tea singles, bottled water, chewing gum, pencils/pens, granola/protein bars, individually wrapped pretzels, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers, and candy. We also are collecting canned food for needy neighbors. Bring donations to church or contact Rebekah Taylor (Rebekah.taylor@ruf.org).

Women’s Christmas Cookie Swap: Saturday morning, 12/11 @ 11:00. At the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Bring at least 2 dozen cookies to share.

Next Midtown Hike: Saturday the 27th at Saguaro National Park West. Meet at the church at 8:00am. Details in the email, or talk to J.D. Doak (jd.doak0@gmail.com).

Missions Team Interest: Meet with Alli Hazrati after church in the back of the sanctuary if you have interest in helping on the missions team. This group will set the trajectories of our missions giving for us going forward.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Minister in Residence: Nick Davis
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Intern: Rebekah Taylor

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