



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Distancing & Safety Plan

So we can more safely meet together for worship we ask you to help us observe the following:

1. Leave every other pew open.
2. No nursery yet (the room is being renovated).
3. Wear masks so we can sing.
4. Communion will involve coming forward without crowding, and picking up a cup and wafer from the altar rail in front of the pulpit. The separate table of cups will have grape juice if you prefer that. The wafers are gluten free. Come forward up the center aisle and go back to your pew down the north aisle.
5. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
6. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

08.30.2020

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. Our nursery for our little ones isn't open yet, post-quarantine, but there is a cry room in the back, and some room in the foyer if they need a little space.

Reflection

The advantage of a fixed form of service is that we know what is coming. Extemporaneous public prayer has this difficulty; we don't know whether we can mentally join in until we've heard it—it might be phony or heretical. We are therefore called upon to carry on a critical and a devotional activity at the same moment: two things hardly compatible. In a fixed form we ought to have 'gone through the motions' before in our private prayers; the rigid form really sets our devotions free. I also find the more rigid it is, the easier it is to keep one's thoughts from straying. Also it prevents getting too completely eaten up by whatever happens to be the preoccupation of the moment (i.e., war, an election, or what not). The permanent shape of Christianity shows through. I don't see how the extemporaneous method can help becoming provincial, and I think it has a great tendency to direct attention to the minister rather than to God.

--C. S. Lewis

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:6-7

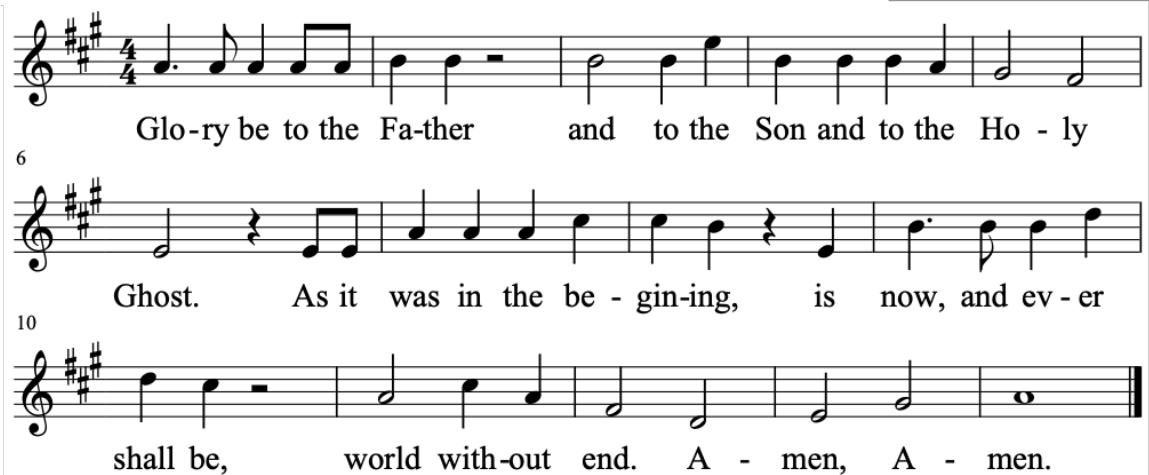
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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 musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a 6-measure rest, then continues with the lyrics. The second staff starts with a 10-measure rest, then continues with the lyrics. The third staff continues the lyrics and 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.

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;
pros-trate ly-ing, suf-fring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
Vic-t'ry gain-ing, life ob - tain -ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever
Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

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.

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]

**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!

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.

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Lyrics: Louisa Stead; Music: William Kirkpatrick



'Tis so sweet to trust in Je-sus, just to take him at his word;



Just to rest up-on his prom-ise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."



Je-sus, Je-sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!



Je-sus, Je-sus, pre-cious Je-sus! O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!
[Refrain]

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.
[Refrain]

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.
[Refrain]

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.

Most gracious God,

who has promised to reveal His glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for Your church.

**Bless all the ministers of Your word and sacraments
and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for the Church.). Amen.

Lord God of our fathers,

who has promised to take care of our every need,

Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons.

**Grant all in authority over us
wisdom and strength to do Your will
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for our world.). Amen.

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.

Most merciful Father,
comfort all who believe the good news of Your grace.

We pray for all who are distressed:

the poor,

the homeless,

the sick,

the bereaved,

and those afflicted in body and mind.

Comfort and relieve them according to Your will,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for all who suffer.). Amen.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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: Rebekah Taylor]

Hebrews 1:1-3

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

We Abide in You

Lyrics & Music: Sandra McCracken



We are the vine - yard you have plan - ted tend our
leaves and wi - ld bran - ches, we a - bide, we a - bide in
You. We a - bide, we a - bide in You.

Refrain



Where can my soul - find liv - ing wa - ter? A - part from
you we bear no fruit! O plant my feet - - - down
by - the ri - ver. We a - bide, we a - bide in You.

Fruit growing from our strength and labor,

Rain on us with grace and favor:

We abide, we abide in You. We abide, we abide in You. [Refrain]

We abide, we abide in You. We abide, we abide in You.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?' ²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²² And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. ²³ And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. ²⁴ And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. ²⁵ And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.'

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dan Smith

Sermons are God's appointed means to communicate his Good News to a particular group of people in a particular local context. Sermons, by design, aren't impressive, so that God will get credit when he uses them in your life, rather than the preacher.

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.]

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.

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 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.]

***See the front of the bulletin for the Covid-19
Communion plan!**

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]

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 musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with measure numbers 4, 7, 11, and 14 indicated on the left side of the staves. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

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

Tell Charles if you are interested in:

Joining Midtown

If you are interested in coming to an informational class to learn about our church and what membership entails. (Coming to the class doesn't obligate you to join!)

Joining a Small Group

We have a couple of small groups meeting to socialize, pray together and study the Scriptures. We will start more groups as we have need.

Mentoring younger Christians and brand new Christians

Shaping our Church's mercy ministry in Tucson

Giving a gift of stocks/securities to the church or including Midtown in your will

Silent Prayer for before the Worship Service

Being an Emergency Bulletin Preparer (using Pages for Mac)

Being a backup videographer for the worship services

Sharing any brilliant ideas for our church's mission in Tucson

charles@mpctucson.org

678.849.7918

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you. You can also email Charles (charles@mpctucson.org) to get on the list.

Intro to Midtown Class Sunday Morning, October 5th. This is a class for people interested in joining Midtown or just finding out more about us. There is a booklet to read through beforehand, and we'll have the class on 10/5 to discuss questions and ideas. Let Charles know if you are interested so he can get the booklet to you in advance. Meeting place is TBD.

Saturday Morning Homeless Ministry: If you're interested in helping with some relief ministry for homeless people in Midtown, contact Tim and Kim Davis and they will help you get started. (tdavisua74@gmail.com or kimdi74@gmail.com)

Monday Soccer in the Mall: Monday evenings at 5:30 a group is meeting on the U of A mall to play soccer. Everyone is welcome.

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

Midtown Presbyterian Church
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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