



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

First Sunday After the Epiphany  
01.07.2024

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**

If you know that the story ends well, then the only choice that is really left is to enjoy the mystery as it slowly unfolds. That is the path called faith.

— Craig Barnes

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.

—C.S. Lewis

# The Word

## Call to Worship

Psalm 62:5-8

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

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.

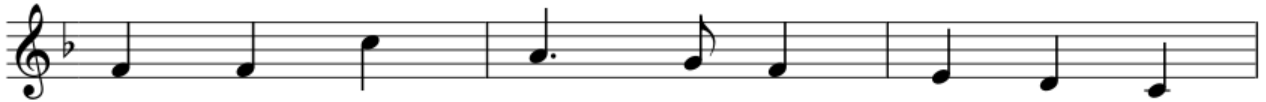
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly  
6 Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er  
10 shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lyrics: Joachim Neander; Music: 17th Century German Tune



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty the king of cre - a - tion!  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth.  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.  
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea so  
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here  
All that hath life and breath, come now with



help and sal - - va - - tion!  
gent - - ly sus - - tain eth!  
dai - - ly at - - tend thee.  
prai - - ses be - - fore him.



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw  
Hast thou not seen how all your long - ings hath  
Pon - der a new what the Al - migh - ty can  
Let the a men sound from his peo - ple a -



near. Praise him in glad a - dor - a - tion!  
been, gran - ted in what he or - dain - eth?  
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.  
gain, Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

## Prayer of Invocation

## Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## Confession of Sin

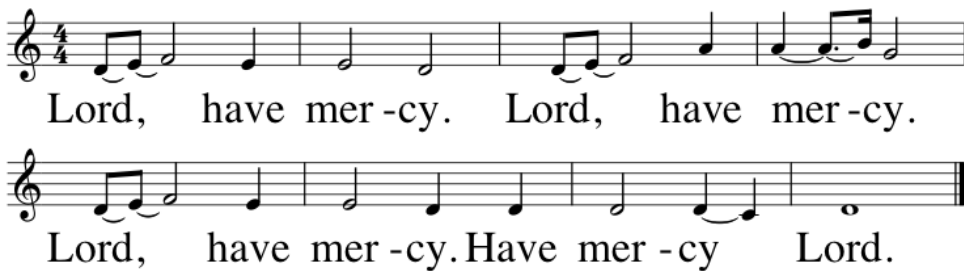
[Please pray aloud together]

**Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this 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.

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

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:5

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -  
joice. From world to world, the joy shall ring, - "The Lord om -

*Chorus*

ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! - Lord of  
Lords, An-cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his  
Praise! - All your - days, all your - days.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The chorus is marked with a bracket and the word 'Chorus' above it. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,  
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must; The judge of all the earth is just;  
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

## **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.

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,  
**Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.**

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,  
**We ask for grace and wisdom.**  
(Pray for those who minister the gospel.)

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,  
**We ask for your faithful love.**  
(Pray for the unbelieving.)

For governors and rulers in every land,  
**We ask for your guidance.**  
(Pray for our leaders.)

For people who suffer and grieve,  
**We ask for your healing peace.**  
(Pray for the suffering.)

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.

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words He taught us, saying:

**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: Julie Garland]

Isaiah 65:17-25

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 24:36-44

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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



# Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Music & Lyrics: Robert Robinson

5 Come, thou fount of ev'-ry bles-sing, tune my heart to sing thy  
9 grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est  
12 praise. Teach me \_ some me - lo-dious - son - net sung by \_  
15 fla - ming tongues a - bove. Praise the mount, I'm fixed up -  
pon it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

## New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**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.]

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 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.]

# You Hold It All

Music & Lyrics: Leslie Jordan, Matthew Kaemingk, Gustavo Santos, Laura Fanucci



1. God, we bring you the work of our hands now, lay it  
2. Wor-ried hearts, wea-ry hands, weak-ened bod - ies, lay it  
3. All our plans, all our dreams, our am - bi - tions, lay them



down, lay it at your feet; — what we've done, what we've  
down, lay it at your feet; — what we've used, what we've  
down, lay them at your feet; — and e - ven if no - thing



built, what we've bro - ken, lay it down, lay it at your feet.  
lost, what we've wast - ed, lay it down, lay it at your feet.  
comes to fru - i - tion, lay them down, lay them at your feet.



You \_ hold it all, Je - sus you hold it all.



You hold it all, Je - sus you hold it all. \_\_\_\_\_


# Rescuer (Good News)

Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

*Chorus*




He's our res-cu-er! He's our res-cu\_er! We are free from sin for-ev-er-



more. Oh how sweet the sound. Oh how grace a - bounds, We will

*Verse*



praise the Lord, our res-cu-er! There is good news for the cap-tive;  
good news for the shamed. There is good news for the one who walked a -  
way. There is good news for the doubt-er; the one re-li-gion failed, for the  
good Lord has come to seek and save. \_ *to Chorus*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor;  
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.  
He is pasture for the weary; rest for those who strive,  
For the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

*Bridge*

*to Chorus*

So come and be chain - less.      Come and be  
 fear - less.      Come to the foot      of Cal - va -  
 ry.      There is re - demp - tion,      for ev - 'ry af -  
 flic - tion.      Here at the foot      of Cal - va - ry.

## 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](http://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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**Refugee Ministry Training Tonight:** 6:30 in the Sanctuary—food is provided. We are preparing to welcome our next refugee family, and tonight’s training will be for anyone interested in helping out. Everyone is welcome!

**Men’s Book Group:** The next book is Surprised By Joy by C.S. Lewis. We’ll meet Tuesday, January 9th at 7pm at the McReynolds’ (1241 E. Sobre Lomas).

**Women’s Book Group:** January 26th @ 7pm. We are reading Jesus Through the Eyes of Women by Rebecca McLaughlin. Cara Scott will host (2839 E Vespers Pl).

**Quarterly Church Prayer Meeting:** Sunday, January 21, at 10:30am at the Jankowski’s home (317 E Canyon View Dr). This is a time to pray for the ministries of the church and the community around us. (You don’t have to pray out loud if you don’t want to.)

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

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