



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

06.17.2018

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

The most radical thing of all was that such people—Jew and Gentile, slave and free, men and women—shared a common meal together, itself a cause for cultural shame, and thus celebrated their Lord's death until he was to come again—which, as 1 Corinthians 11:17–34 makes clear, created considerable tension for the traditional householder. No wonder the world had such difficulty with these early Christians, and why they were considered to be “haters of humanity,” because they so willingly broke the rules—not by tearing down the structures, but by making them ultimately irrelevant! Such people are greatly to be feared (by those who use their power to put others down) as they are the worst of all possible anarchists.

— Gordon Fee

Reflection

Hope is the way we overcome the lurking suspicion that all of our getting and spending amounts to nothing more than fidgeting while waiting for death.

— Andrew Delbanco

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

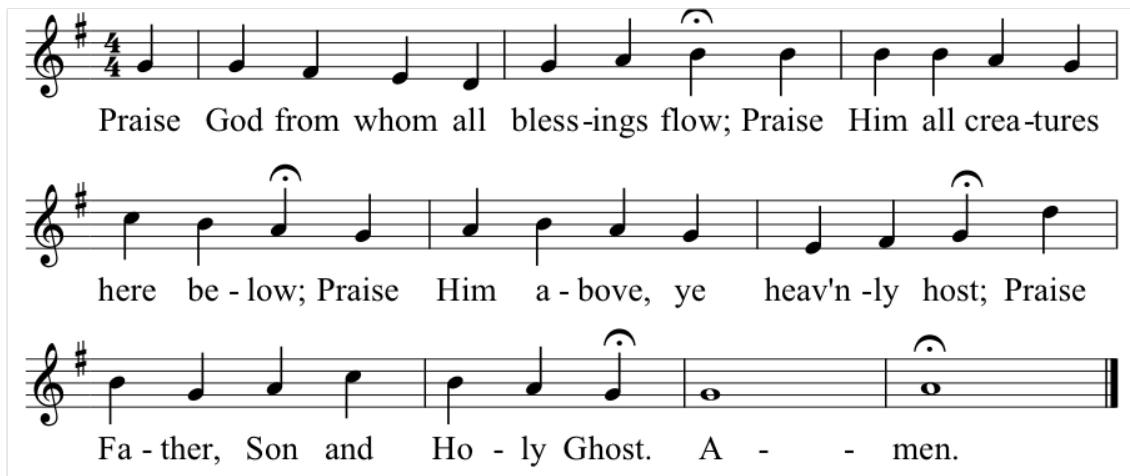
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Doxology

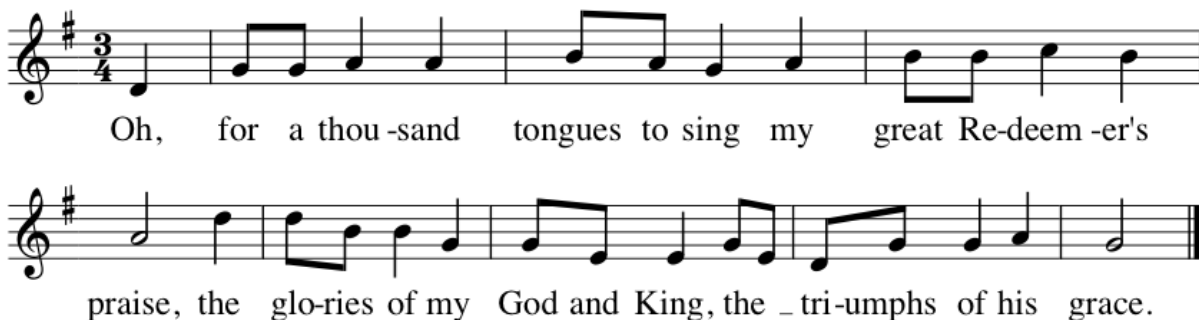
Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's
praise, the glo-ries of my God and King, the _tri-umphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Confession of Sin

Please pray aloud together

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We know that you care for us and cherish us.

We know that you empower us and give us hope.

We know that you provide us with direction, comfort, and peace.

We confess that we have not loved you as you have asked us to love.

We take you for granted and fail to acknowledge your good gifts.

We allow the opinions of others to drive us even to the point of disobedience.

We do not want others to know that we follow you.

We look to the wisdom of world to guide as opposed to your Word.

We confess our sin with the bold confidence that you will continue to love us. You will not reject. You will not abandon. You will forgive.

You are invited to confess your sins to God 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

John 12:46-47

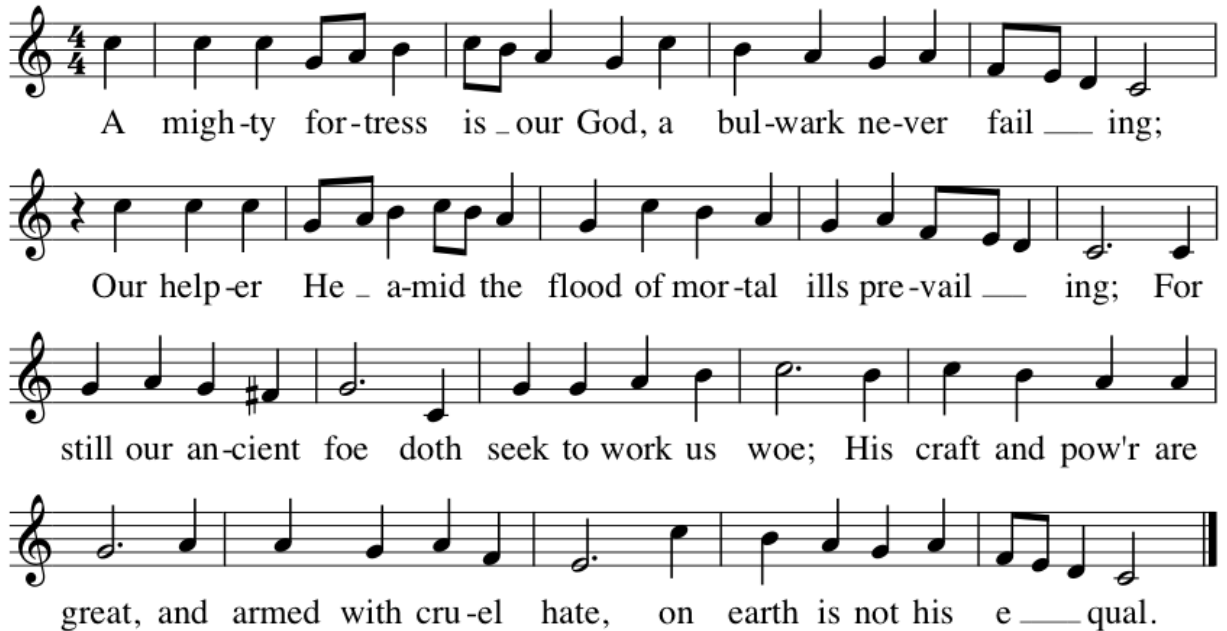
I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Lyrics & Music: Martin Luther



A migh-ty for-tress is our God, a bul-wark ne-ver fail — ing;
Our help-er He — a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail — ing; For
still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are
great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e — qual.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed, his truth to triumph through us
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever!

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.

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).

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).

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).

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).

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.*

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 14:4-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Jesus I My Cross have Taken

Lyrics: Henry Lyte; Music: Bill Moore



Je-sus I my cross have tak-en, all to leave and fol - low Thee.



Na-ked, poor, de-spied for-sak-en. Thou from hence my all shall be.



Per-ish ev-ery fond am-bi-tion, all I've sought or hoped or known.



Yet how rich is my con - di - tion,



God and heav'n are still my — own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.
Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me; heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Soul, then know thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee, child of heaven, canst thou repine.
Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-32

26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. **27** He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. **28** The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? **31** It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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 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: 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.]

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, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: '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!

Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



O how he takes _ the cross, O how he lifts _ it up



to take the weight from us. O how he pays _ the cost,



O how he drinks the cup, to make a place _ for us.

CHORUS



Take us, _ O Lord, and all we have known. Shape us, O



Lord, and form us in - to your own. Take eve - ry heart and



know eve-ry sin. Break us, O Lord, that we may be whole a - gain.

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!" *Chorus*

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! *Chorus*

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.

Notes

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

Midtown Presbyterian Church
www.mpctucson.org
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717
678.849.7918

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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