

MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

First Sunday After Christmas

12.26.2021

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

The first step toward God is a step away from the lies of the world. It is a renunciation of the lies we have been told about ourselves and our neighbors and our universe.

--Eugene Peterson

As a child a dream is all it takes to get you through the night
Now it costs me every dime I make just to say I feel alright
Lookin' for the good life is about to make me loose my mind
Lookin' for the good life is keepin' me miserable all the time

--Mac McAnally

The Word

Call to Worship

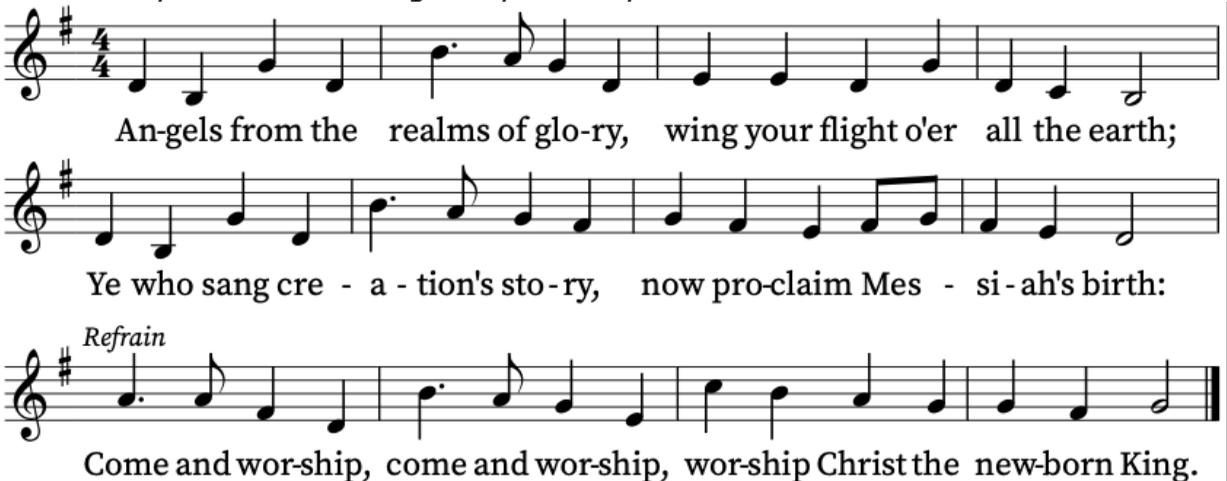
Psalm 95:6-7

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.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Music & Lyrics: James Montgomery & Henry Smart



Angels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Refrain
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

[You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.]

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly. An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer; Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.'

Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68-69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Medieval Carol



Good Christ-ian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; —



Give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be



fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.



Christ is born to - day! — Christ is born to - day! —

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Nick Davis]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, especially where
there is war, and for the unity of the body of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our world.)

For our nation, the President and all whom we have trusted with the
leadership of our country, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our nation's leaders.)

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.

For this gathering of the faithful at Midtown Presbyterian, as well as those gathering together in worship throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

And now hear us as we pray as our Savior 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]

Psalm 23

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

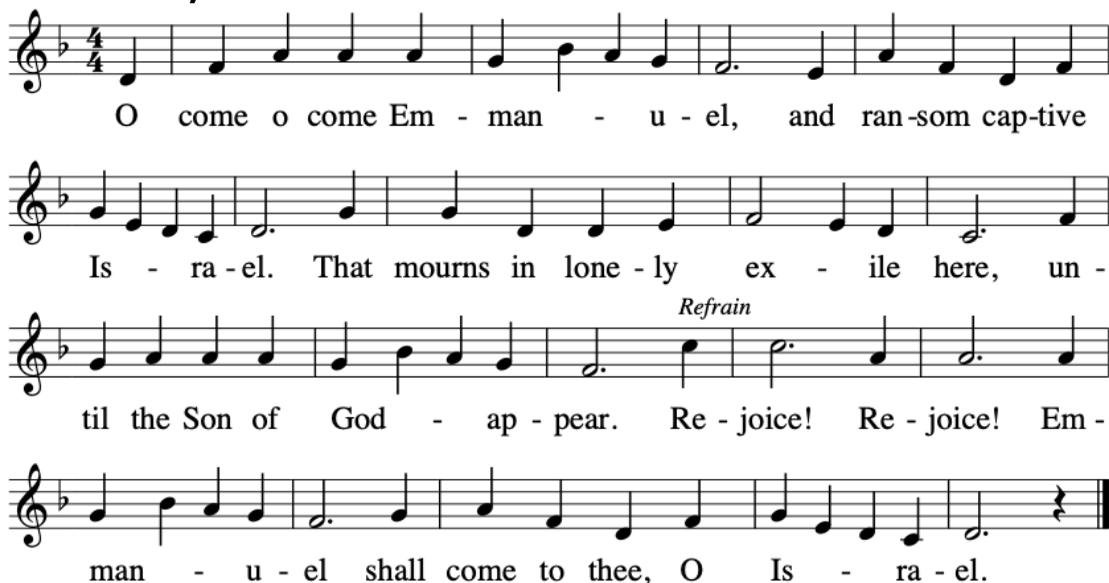
New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



O come o come Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
Is - ra - el. That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
Refrain
til the Son of God - ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe for us the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. [Refrain]

Gospel Reading

John 10:7-11

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.**

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.

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.]

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Lyrics: Edmund Sears; Music: Richard Willis



It came up-on _ the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song _of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps _of gold: _



"Peace on the earth good will to men from heav'n's _ gra - cious King";



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Traditional

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where; -

Verse

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je - sus Christ is born. While

shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night, be -

hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light -

The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

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.

Midtown Banquet: Mark your calendars for Friday evening, January 14th. We are going to have a dinner at Culinary Dropout and celebrate and anticipate the near future for our church. RSVP with Charles (charles@mpctucson.org) to reserve your spot.

Donations for refugee family: We anticipate receiving our Afghan family in January. We are collecting household donations to stock their apartment. Gently used items are welcome, as well as new. Kitchen supplies, towels, sheets, furniture, mattresses are all things they will need. Coats and clothes too, though, of course, we won't know sizes until we receive our family. So please keep this in mind as new Christmas gifts might make your donation pile grow.

New Nursery Director Search: We are looking for a new nursery director at Midtown Pres! We are looking for someone who is great with kids, proficient in leading a nursery setting and can provide peace of mind when parents drop off their little ones before the service. Ideally, this is someone you know who is a member of another like-minded church as they will not be able to participate in our service. Commitment is 5 hr/wk and paid. Please email Nick (nick@mpctucson.org) with any leads.

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

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