



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

03.19.2023

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 gospel message rings hollow to ears muffled by seductive myths about human perfectibility and potential.

--David Zahl

Doubt your doubts. Be skeptical of your own skepticism. Why? Because doubts are always based on unprovable beliefs that are not being doubted at the moment. Identify those beliefs and question them too.

--Tim Keller

The Word

Call to Worship

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Doxology

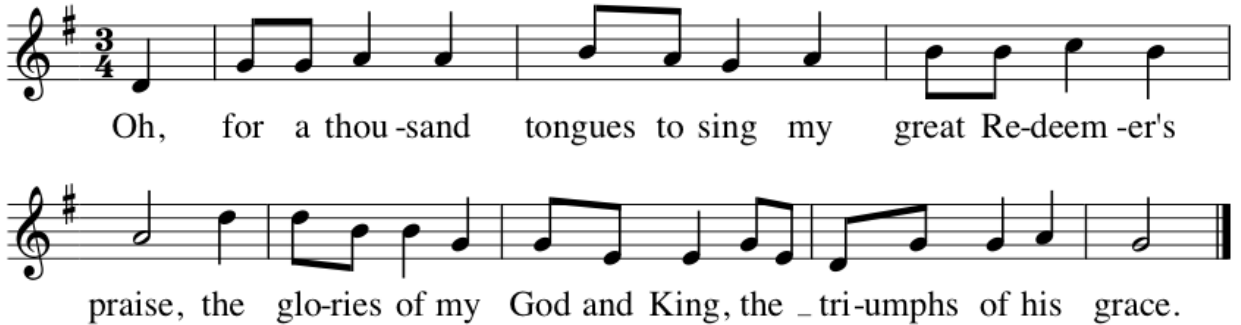
Music: The Old One Hundredth

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.

In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

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

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 32:4-6

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

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

[Please pray aloud together]

Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that his blood is our peace, his death our freedom, his smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega

Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.

Ho - - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

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]

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.

O Lord, we cry out to you for the Church:

**We pray for the churches in Tucson
that proclaim your gospel.**

**We pray for Redemption Church and
for our sister churches in the Arizona
Presbytery.**

(Pray for the church.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for all the people of the earth:

**We pray for those who do not know you;
We pray that your gospel would run in our city.**

(Pray for your friends who don't yet believe the gospel.)

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.

O Lord, we cry out to you for our own nation:

Please give President Biden humility, wisdom, and trust in you. Please bless Governor Hobbs and Mayor Romero. Please bring prosperity and peace to our city through your gospel.

(Pray for our leaders.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for the poor and suffering of our community:

We pray for those who are living on the streets. We pray for those who are sick and grieving. We pray for those who are discouraged and despairing.

(Pray for those who suffer.)

O Lord we cry out to you with our individual concerns and needs:

(Pour out your heart to your Father who gives good gifts to his children.)

All of these things we ask of you in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray 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: Raegan Watkins]

Daniel 7:13-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1:8-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:53-65

⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶²And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.]

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.]

Come, Then Lord Jesus

Music: Kenny Hutson & Katy Bower; Lyrics: Horatius Bonar



The Church has wait-ed long, her ab-sent Lord to see, and



still in lone-li - ness she waits, a friend-less stran-ger she. How



age af-ter age has gone, sun af-ter sun has set, and



still, in weeds of wid-ow-hood, she weeps, a mourn-er yet.



Come then, Lord Je - sus come; Come then, Lord Je-sus; _



Come then, Lord Je - sus come; Come, _____ come.

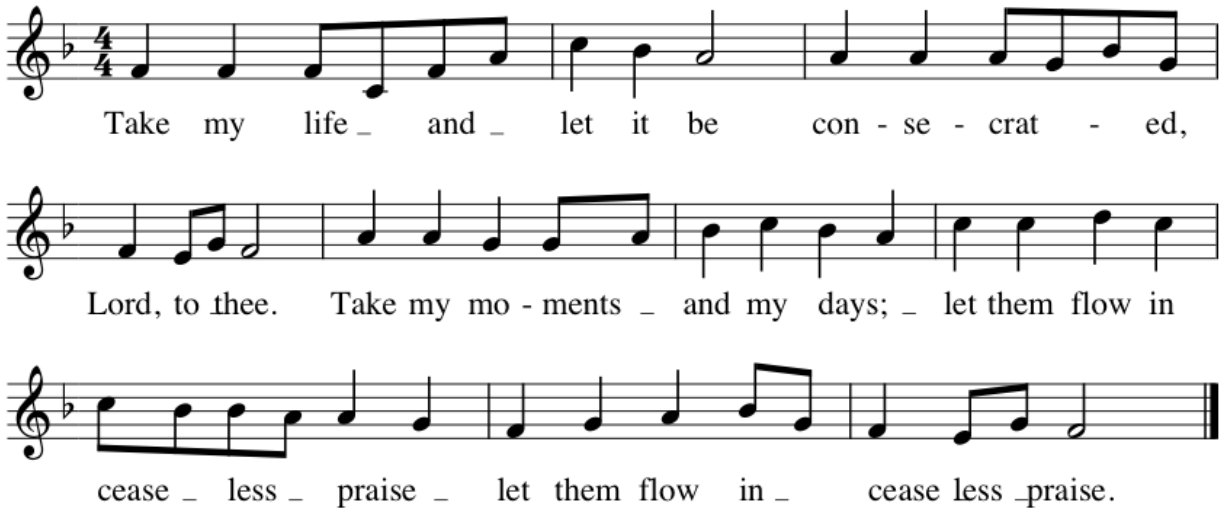
The serpent's brood increase; the powers of hell grow bold,
The conflicts thicken, faith is low, and love is waxing cold.
How long, O Lord our God, holy and true and good,
Wilt thou not judge thy suffering Church,
her sighs and tears and blood? [Refrain]

We long to hear thy voice, to see thee face to face,
To share Thy crown and glory then, as now we share thy grace.
Should not the loving bride, the absent Bridegroom mourn?
Should she not wear the weeds of grief,
until her Lord return? [Refrain]

The whole creation groans, and wait to hear that voice
That shall restore her comeliness, and make her wastes rejoice.
Come, Lord, and wipe away, the curse, the sin, the stain
And make this blighted world of ours,
thine own fair world again. [Refrain]

Take My Life And Let It Be

Lyrics & Music: Frances Havergal



Take my life _ and _ let it be con - se - crat - ed,
Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments _ and my days; _ let them flow in
cease _ less _ praise _ let them flow in _ cease less _praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord,
I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
Ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction

As God has the first word in our worship service, he also has the last. The Benediction is given so you will leave church with the words of God's grace and favor ringing in your ears, and know how deeply he loves you.

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). —>>

Shower for Sami Byker: All Midtown women are invite to come celebrate Sami's upcoming marriage on March 25th at 3pm at 2617 E Waverly St. Please RSVP with Annalyse Rash (520)286-7578.

Nursery Needs: Midtown nursery is looking for donations of empty paper towel rolls, empty toilet paper rolls, empty oatmeal containers, and empty coffee tins (plastic or metal). Along with this, donations of food, magazine and newspapers are welcomed for others crafts that will be done. We are also having a craft day where volunteers can help make craft demonstrations for next years curriculum, Sami is looking for 4-5 people to help, please let me know if you would be willing to help! This will take place at 3:30 on Sunday, April 2.


MIDTOWN PRESBYTERIAN

2023 EASTER OFFERING



FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKE (the foundation that built the borehole we gave to in 2021) is expanding the school in Leboo to accommodate orphans and girls otherwise vulnerable to child marriage and FGM.

TWO NEW CLASSROOMS FOR THE SCHOOL IN LEBOO



PROJECT GOAL: \$20,000

Note "Easster Offering" on your check to Midtown Presbyterian
www.mpctucson.org

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Byker
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein

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