



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. We will space out the chairs as much as we can.
2. Wear masks so we can sing.
3. 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.
4. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
5. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

12.06.2020

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.

Reflection

It's little wonder that this experience is enshrined in [Camus'] novel about *l'étranger*—the stranger, the foreigner, the outsider. It's also not surprising, then, that the human condition is considered in the language of sojourn. But for Camus, this isn't about pilgrimage; it's about exile. In his notebooks, Camus once wrote, "We travel to cultivate our most private instinct, which is that of eternity." We are compelled to look for home. What makes it absurd is that we've never had one.

—James K. A. Smith

If I find in myself desires that nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.

—C.S. Lewis

The Word

Call to Worship—

[Anna Rich, Cara Scott, Rebekah Taylor]

Lighting of the Peace Candle

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall, as Luke records: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Music: Felix Mendelssohn; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



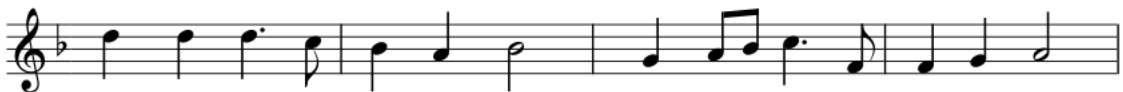
Hark! the her - ald an-gels sing, - "Glo-ry to the new-born King;



peace on earth and mer-cy mild, - God and sin - ners re-con-ciled!"



Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies; -



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is - born in Beth-le-ham!"

Refrain



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry - to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

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.]

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.

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Lyrics: Frank Houghton; Music: French Carol

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are: 'Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der, sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - came - est poor.'

Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's
sake be - cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - came - est poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art God beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell
with her forever.

**Bless all who guard and feed your sheep,
those who shepherd souls, those who
care for the poor, those who minister
praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that as you are
lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.**

(Please pray silently for the ministry of the church.) Amen.

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

**We pray for peace in every corner of the world: in
Afghanistan and Yemen, as well as every nation where
there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the
nations.**

(Please 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.

Lord, you offer comfort to those who are in need.

We commend to you all who are afflicted: those who are ill, those who suffer in poverty, those who wrestle with all sorts of addictions, as well as those who sorrow, that they will be comforted in their time of tribulation.

(Please pray silently for all who suffer.) Amen.

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in our history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray now in the words he taught us:

**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: Jason Jorg]

Psalm 137:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-4

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music: Lewis Redner; Lyrics: Phillip Brooks

For

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a -
bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by. Yet
in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light; the
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time, G major. The melody is simple and gentle, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.]

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 are using individual cups and wafers as a concession to the virus. The red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

Come Light Our Hearts

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

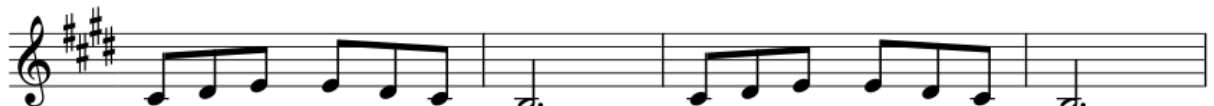
Chorus



For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.




For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.



Tru-ly our hope is in You, Tru-ly our hope is in You.

Verse



O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra-dience shines on all who

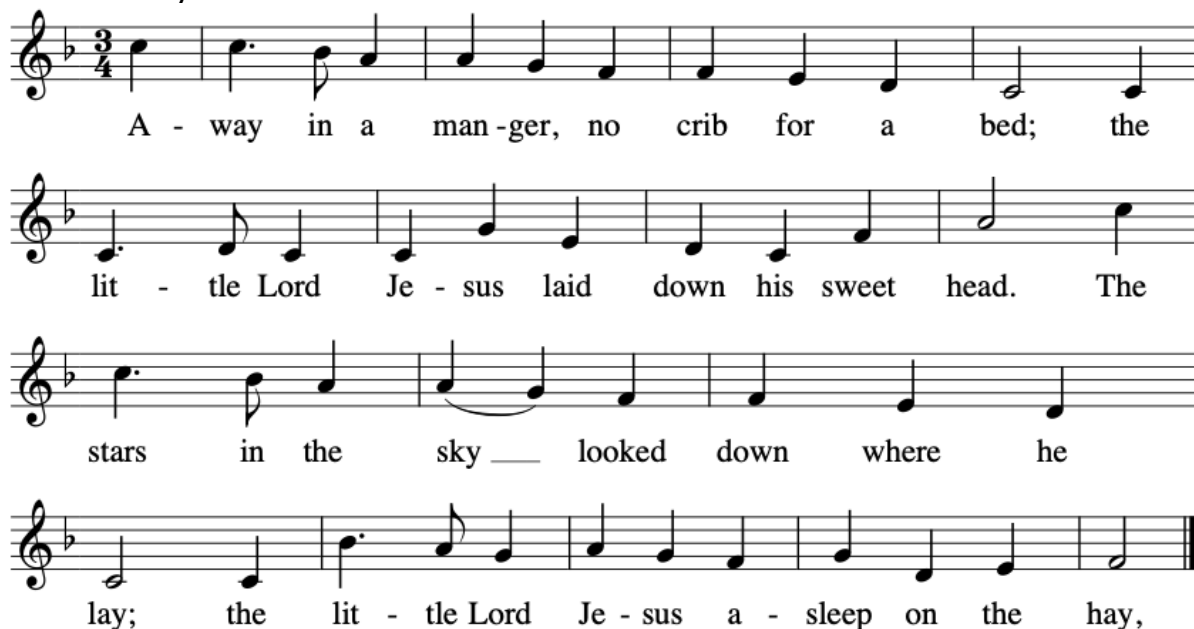


look to You in the dark, E-mman - u - el come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore
Come light our hearts.

Away in a Manger

Music & Lyrics: Traditional



A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed; the
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
stars in the sky — looked down where he
lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay,

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

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.

No Monday Soccer in December

Men’s Book Group: December 8th at 7:00pm on Matt McReynold’s patio (4779 E. Avenida del Cazador). We’ll be reading Jeremiah Borroughs’ book The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment.

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

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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Never Mind: It's Too Cold and Windy To Meet Outside!

~~December Services Outside (Weather Permitting)~~

~~We are going to try meeting in the courtyard for our services in December to accommodate the spike in COVID cases. We can go inside if the weather doesn't cooperate.~~

~~We will need to make a couple of adjustments to make it work:~~

- ~~1. Bring a chair from home if you can—we can bring out folding chairs for those who prefer them or didn't bring one from home.~~
- ~~2. Download the bulletin on your phone or tablet. It gets dark during the service and phones will let us see the words. (No Words With Friends During the Sermons!)~~



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