



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty third Sunday after Pentecost

11.17.2019

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

You know you've created God in your own image when he hates the same people you do.

-- Anne Lamott

Yet, without true Christians loving one another, Christ says the world cannot be expected to listen, even when we give proper answers. Let us be careful, indeed, to spend a lifetime studying to give honest answers. For years the orthodox, evangelical church has done this very poorly. So it is well to spend time learning to answer the questions of people who are around us. But after we have done our best to communicate to a lost world, still we must never forget that the final apologetic which Jesus gives is the observable love of true Christians for true Christians.

— Francis Schaeffer

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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

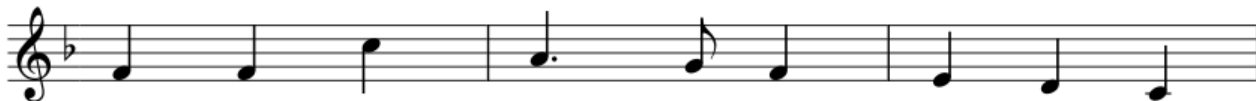
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

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—Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

Jesus, our great King, You have called each of us to live together as one people. We are the people of your pasture, and the sheep of your hand. Forgive us for the times we have broken unity with others in this congregation:

For our arrogance and pride, For the grudges we have nursed and coddled, For the cowardice that leads us to slander instead of reconcile.

Forgives us for the times we have broken unity with Christians outside this congregation:

For thinking that our congregation or group is superior to others, For despising Christians with convictions that differ from ours, For not rejoicing in the good work you are doing in others.

Have mercy on us. Forgive us and change us. Help us to live as one.

[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

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

In Christ Alone

Lyrics & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

3 In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my
6 light, my strength, my song; This cor - ner - stone, this sol-id
9 ground, firm through the fier-cest drought and storm. What heights of
12 love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
14 cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The score consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'In Christ alone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comfort-er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.' The music is simple and melodic, with a final double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death! This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

The Prayers of the People

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 Syria, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.

(Please pray silently for our world.) Amen.

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

PSalm 133:1-3

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 17:20-23

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing
Bridge
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

Acts 15:3-21

³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old."

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the

things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

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 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 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.]

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

The image shows a musical score for the song "Your Labor Is Not In Vain". It consists of seven staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music is: "Your la - bor _ is not in _ vain though the". The second line is: "ground un - der-neath you is cursed and _ stained. Your". The third line is: "plant - ing and reap - ing are ne - ver the same, _ but your". Below the third line, the word "Chorus" is written. The fourth line is: "la - bor is not ___ in vain. For I am". Below the fourth line, the text "- to verse 2" is written. The fifth line is: "with you. I am with you. I am with you. I am". The sixth line is: "with you. For I have called you, called you by name. _ your". The seventh line is: "la - bor is not ___ in vain." The score ends with a double bar line.

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]

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

--Lyrics: Joseph Scriven; Music: Charles Converse



What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.



O what peace we of-ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Blessed Savior, you have promised, all our burdens you will bear.
May we ever, Lord, be bringing, all to you in earnest prayer.
Soon, in glory, bright, unclouded, face to face, it is our prayer.
Joyful praise and endless worship, will be our sweet portion 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. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you.

Church Membership: On the morning of December 1 we are holding an Intro to Midtown Class for those who want to find out about joining the church. Please sign up and get an Intro Book (on the back table) to read through before the meeting.

Core Team Saturday: Please come join us Saturday morning from 8-9:30 at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave) for a time of prayer for God's work in and around Midtown, as well as a discussion of biblical sex ethics and how to have better conversations about these issues with friends.

Thanksgiving Dinner: If you're in town without plans for Thanksgiving, please let Charles know or sign up on the back table—we have some people with open spots at their tables who would love to have you join them.

TableTalk: Sunday, 12/1, dinner and conversation after church in a home or restaurant. Tell Sara Edgar if you want to host, and look for the sign up next week at church. This doesn't have to be an elaborate meal—pizza, soup, meet at a restaurant—the conversation is the main thing.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Ministers: Dan & Brittany Smith

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

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Biblical references are taken from the Holy Bible: English Standard Version (ESV) Copyright 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Music: Most historic hymns are public domain. Recent praise songs are printed under Midtown Presbyterian Church's CCLI License # 11521797.