

MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
08.29.2021

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

Tolerance isn't a lack of exclusive beliefs. Everyone has exclusive beliefs--we all think we are right about important things and the world would be better if others agreed. Tolerance is whether your beliefs lead you to treat those disagreeing with kindness, respect, humility.

--Tim Keller

The practice of non-violence requires a belief in divine vengeance.

— Miroslav Volf

The Word

Call to Worship

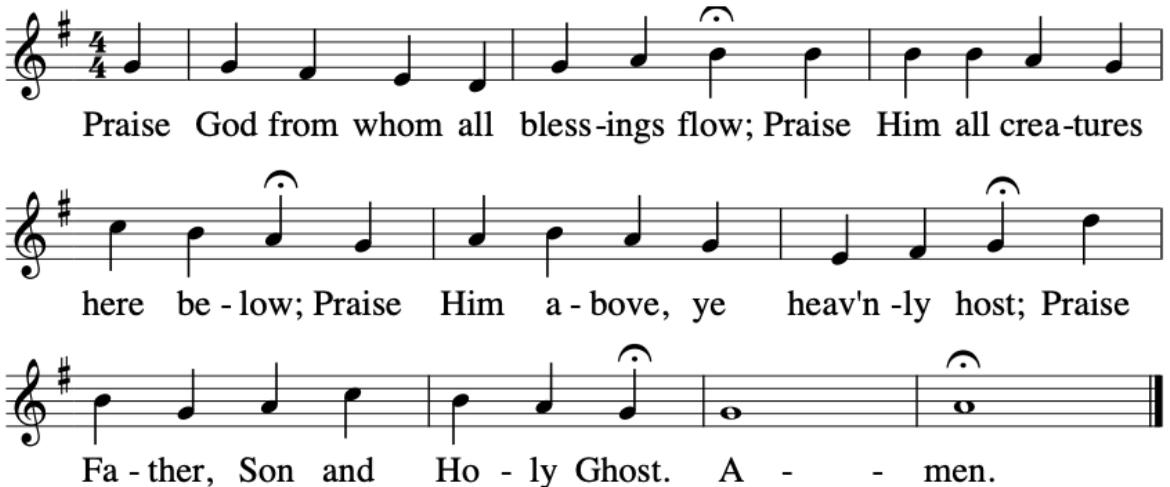
Psalm 95:6-7

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.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth



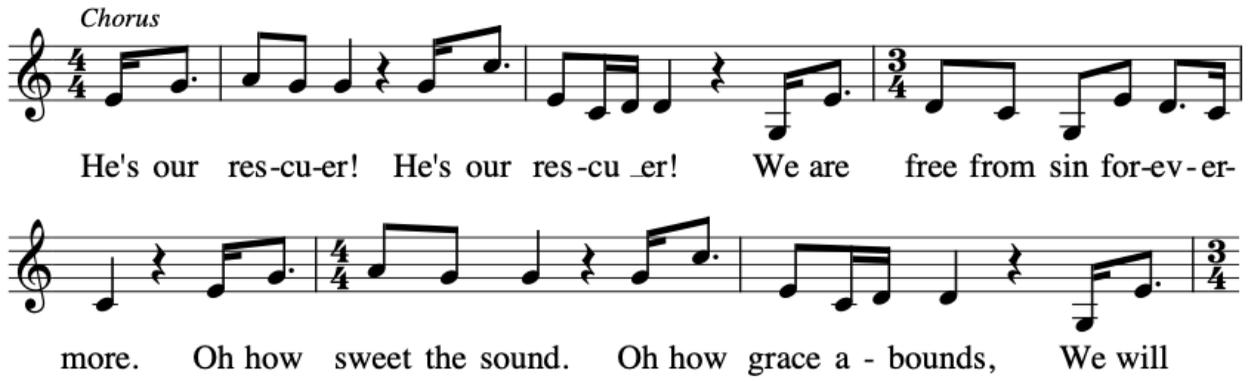
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

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.

Rescuer (Good News)

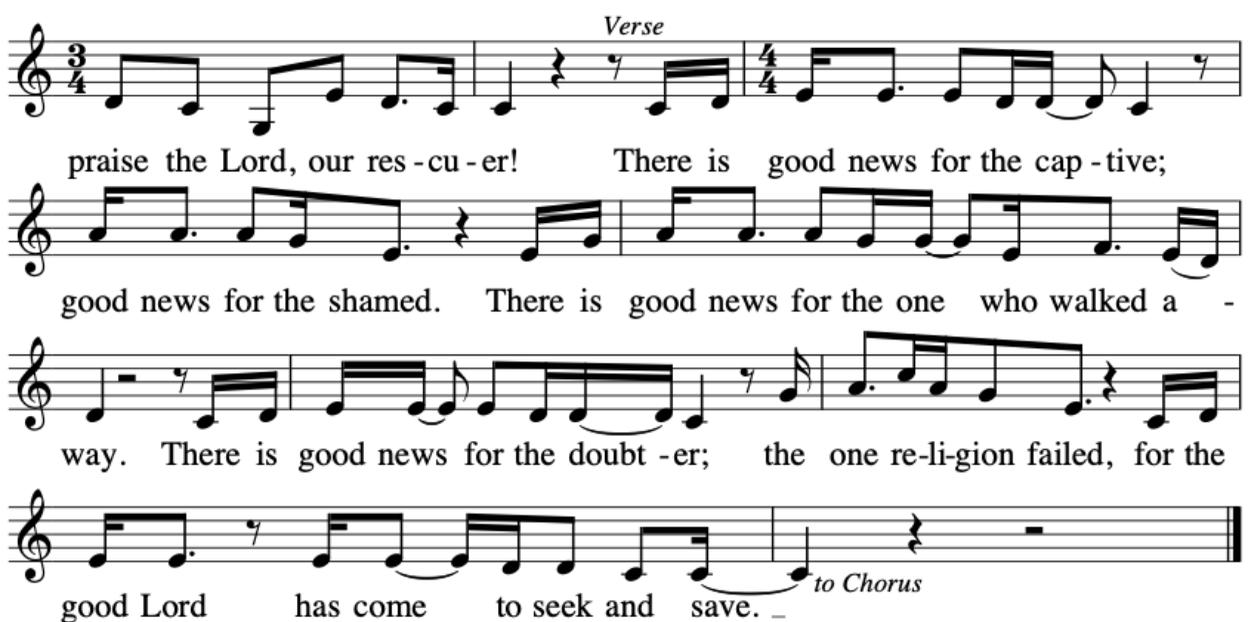
Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

Chorus



He's our res-cu-er! He's our res-cu_er! We are free from sin for-ev-er-
more. Oh how sweet the sound. Oh how grace a - bounds, We will

Verse



praise the Lord, our res-cu-er! There is good news for the cap-tive;
good news for the shamed. There is good news for the one who walked a -
way. There is good news for the doubt-er; the one re-li-gion failed, for the
good Lord has come to seek and save. _ *to Chorus*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor;
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.
He is pasture for the weary; rest for those who strive,
For the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

Bridge

to Chorus So come and be chain - less. Come and be
 fear - less. Come to the foot of Cal - va -
 ry. There is re - demp - tion, for ev - 'ry af -
 flic - tion. Here at the foot of Cal - va - ry.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to you,
 O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!
 Let your ears be attentive to the voice
 of my pleas for mercy!
 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
 O Lord, who could stand?
 But with you there is forgiveness,
 that you may be feared.

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

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

Psalm 130

Lyrics: Martin Luther; Music: Christopher Minor



From the depths of woe I raise to thee, the voice



of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord - turn a gra - cious ear



to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion. If thou in - i - qui - ties



dost mark our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O - who shall

Women: O - who shall stand be - fore thee?



stand be - fore thee?

Men:

O - who shall

Women: Who shall stand be - fore thee?



stand be - fore thee?

To wash away the crimson stain, Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain; In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight, All must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Psalm 130 (Continued)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience) 2x

What though I wait the live-long night, and 'til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might; it doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait 'til God appeareth (Wait 'til God appeareth) 2x

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow) 2x

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.

Most gracious God,
who has promised to reveal His glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for Your church.

**Bless all the ministers of Your word and sacraments
and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for the Church.). Amen.

Lord God of our fathers,
who has promised to take care of our every need,

**Give us peaceful times and fruitful
seasons. Grant all in authority over us
wisdom and strength to do Your will
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for our world.). Amen.

Most merciful Father,
comfort all who believe the good news of Your grace.

**We pray for all who are distressed:
the poor, the homeless, the sick,
the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind.
Comfort and relieve them according to Your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pray silently for all who suffer.). 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.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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.**

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Cara Scott]

Acts 17:29-31

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 5:19-23

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

How Long?

Music & Lyrics: Isaac Wardell



1. How long? Will you turn your face a-way?
2. How long 'til your child- ren find their rest?



How long? Do you hear us when we pray?
How long 'til you draw them to your breast?



On and on, still we walk this pil - - grim way. How long?
We go on, hold - ing to your pro - - mi - ses. How long?

Chorus



'Til you wipe a-way the tears from eve - ry eye?



'Til we see our home de - scend - ing from the sky?



Do we wait in vain? Je - sus give us hope a - gain!

How long 'til your word will still the storm?

How long 'til you bare your mighty arm?

How we groan 'til you snatch us from the thorns. How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on, great that cloud of witnesses! How long? [Chorus]

Amen, Jesus Come!

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 12:11-14

¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. ¹² My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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.

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.**

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.]

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: '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!

Be Thou My Vision

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Irish Hymn



Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my heart.



Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.



Thou my best thought, by day or by night, —



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight; Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r; Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.

Prayer before the service: Would you like to pray for Midtown before our service? The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Come and go as you'd like. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, September 12, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold's home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 6:00 at the U of A Mall.

Women's Sermon Discussion: Finished for the summer.

Women's Fall Bible Study begins Wed. Sept. 15 at 6PM at the Garland's home at 1324 N. Norton Ave. Yunuen Jankowski will be leading our discussion of Shattered Dreams by Larry Crabb.. We will meet at 6PM for our first meeting to enjoy a light supper together and catch up after our summer break. We'll dive into the first chapter at 7PM, so please read and answer the questions for chapter one before our first meeting.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Midtown has the opportunity to "adopt" a newly arriving refugee family. Lutheran Social Services can "place" a family, possibly Afghan, with us and we can come alongside them as they learn to maneuver their new life in the States. We might welcome them at the airport, help furnish their apartment, take them grocery shopping, etc. Please let Julie Garland know if you are interested.