



MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

## Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

08.12.2018

### **Welcome to Worship at Midtown!**

We are just starting our corporate worship services, and are really glad to have you with us. 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 in the patio room. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

### **Worship Note**

Public worship goes beyond the personal encounter with God (without denying it) to the corporate drama of being the people of God." Liturgy is the church at prayer, serving as a priestly people, interceding on behalf of the whole church and world, and being sent out together on God's mission.

—Mark Earey

## Reflection

Man now realizes that he is an accident, a completely futile being.

— Francis Bacon

Our new a previous plight, awaiting death in a universe without God, ungoverned by reason and devoid of purpose.

— Kenneth Tynan

This is the bitterest pill to swallow: man has no nobility from his responsibility and his choices.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

# The Word

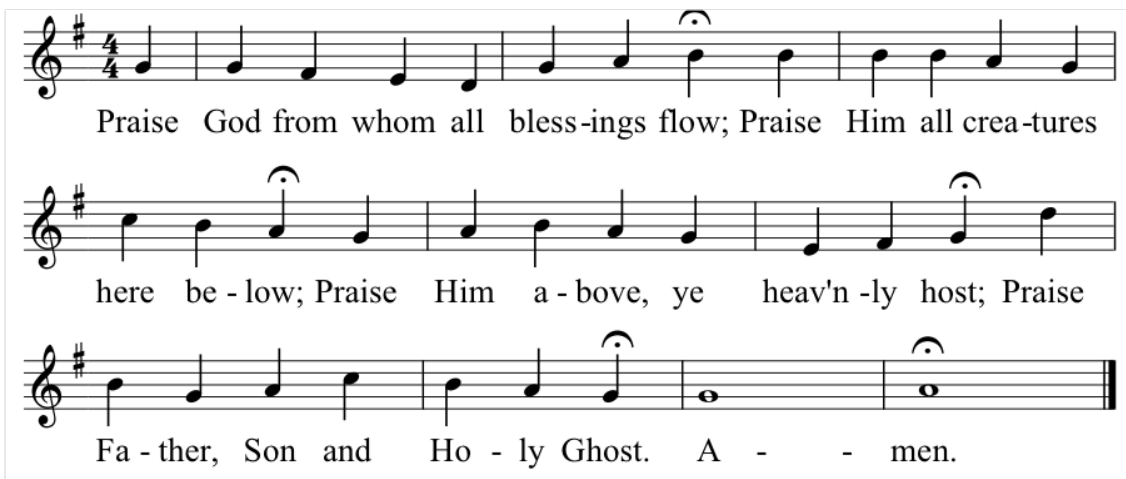
## Call to Worship

Psalm 57:9-11

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

## Doxology

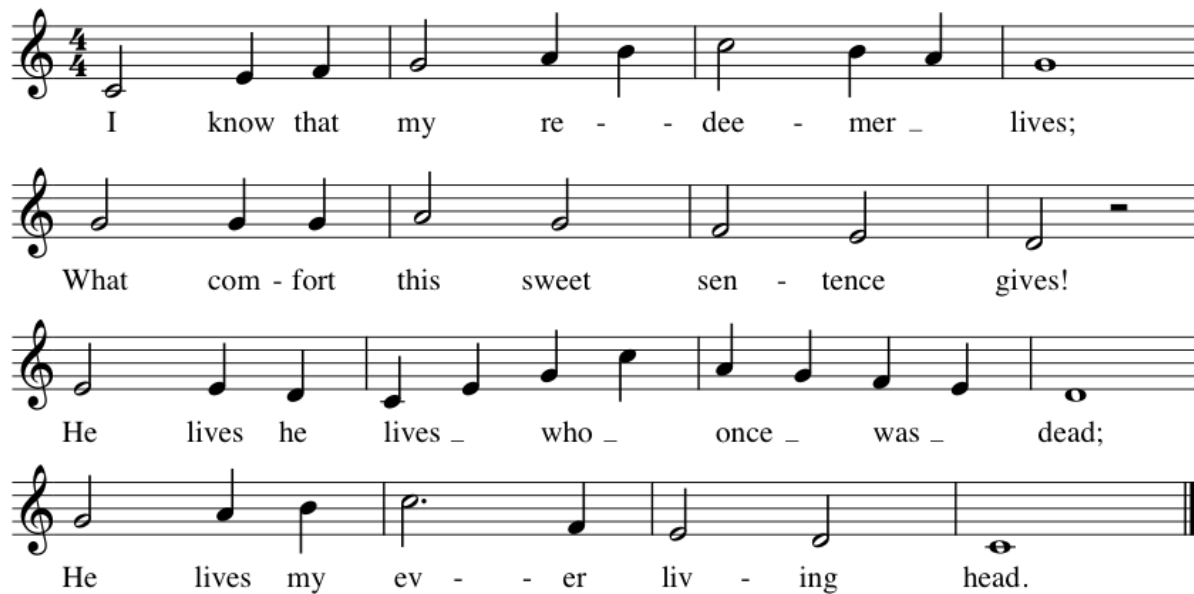
Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures  
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise  
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

# I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



I know that my re - - dee - mer \_ lives;  
What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives!  
He lives he lives \_ who \_ once \_ was \_ dead;  
He lives my ev - - er liv - ing head.

He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears,  
He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives and I shall conquer death;  
He lives and while I live I'll sing, He lives my prophet, priest, and king.

He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save,  
What joy this bless'd assurance gives; I know that my redeemer lives.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## Prayer of Invocation

# Call to Confession of Sin

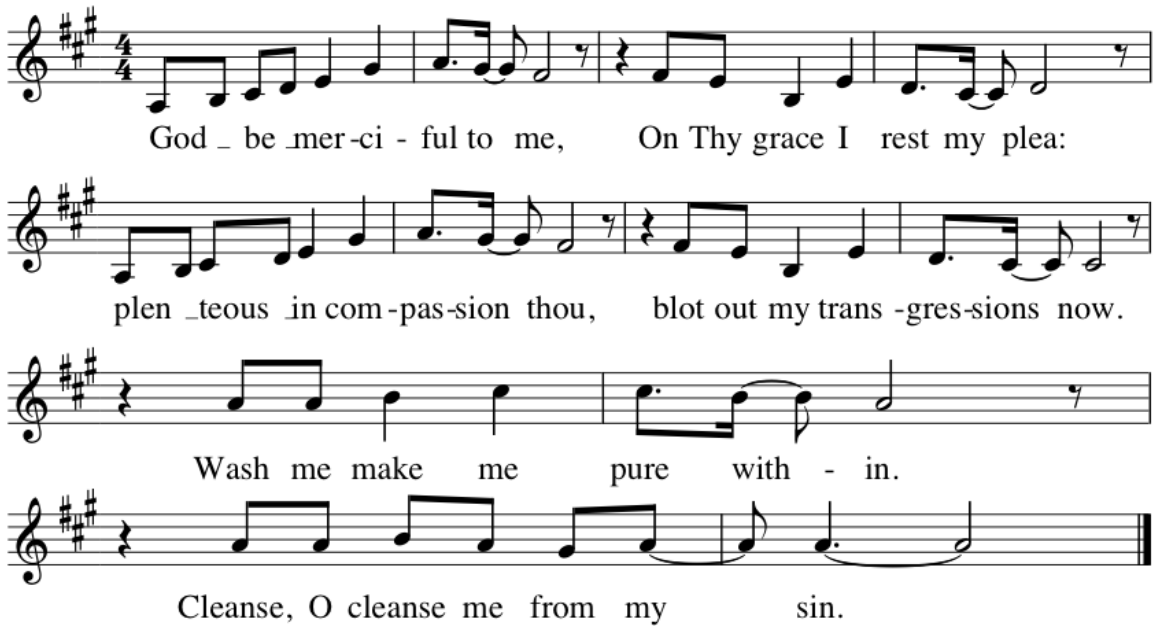
Mark 1:14-15

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

## Confession of Sin

### Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God - be - mer - ci - ful to me,      On Thy grace I rest my plea:  
plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou,      blot out my trans - gres - sions now.  
Wash me make me pure with - in.  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.  
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

*You are invited to confess your sins to God silently at this time.*

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

*All: And also with you!*

## **Psalm 51 (continued)**

Broken, humbled to the dust by Thy wrath and judgment just,  
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear Thy voice;  
From my sins O hide Thy face,  
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true.  
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me, and return, O God, to Thee  
Savior all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

## The Prayers of the People

(Please pray the italicized portions aloud together.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

*We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs.*

*We thank you for your care for our souls.*

*We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(Thank Him for His blessings in your life.)

We give thanks to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

*Give grace to our leaders that they may do justice and love mercy and walk humbly before you.*

(Pray for our leaders.)

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

*We pray for the peace and purity and growth of this congregation.*

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

*We pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith.*

(Pray for the body of Christ.)

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

*We pray for the spread of the gospel in our city.*

*We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.*

(Pray for those who have not yet come to faith in Christ.)

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

*We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them.*

*We pray for those who are grieving.*

*We pray for those who are lonely.*

*We pray for those who are struggling with enslaving sins.*

(Bring your burdens and requests to the Lord.)

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

*Amen.*

## **Old Testament Reading**

Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## **New Testament Reading**

Ephesians 2:12-13

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*



# Psalm 126

Music: Issac Wardell



1. Our mouths they were filled, filled \_ with laugh - ter.  
2. The na - tions will say: "He has done great things!"



Our tongues they were loosed, loosed \_ with joy.  
the na - tions will sing songs \_ of joy.



Re-store us, O Lord. Re-store us O Lord.



Although we are weep-ing. Lord help us keep sow - ing



the seeds of your King-dom for the day you will reap \_ them.



Your sheaves we will car - ry. Lord please do not tar - ry.



All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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.]

## **Sursum Corda**

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.*

## **Words of Institution**

## **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.]

# Not What My Hands Have Done

Lyrics: Horatius Bonar; Music: George William Martin



Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - ty soul;



not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.



Not what I feel or do, can give me peace with God;



not all the prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.

Not what my hands have done can save this guilty soul;  
Not what this toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.  
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
Not all my pray'rs and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;  
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.  
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,  
Can rid me of the dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.  
I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;  
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.

# 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 toun- ges 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.

## Benediction

## Silent Prayers During Communion

*Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed):* Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Taking Communion:* Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the Joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, you have called me to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

# Notes

**Offering:** We have placed an offering box in the back of the nave that you can use as you enter or leave, or as you come to communion. You can also give online at our website [www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org).

**Book Group:** Everyone is invited to come and discuss Tyler Wigg-Stevenson's book, *The World Is Not Ours To Save*. Our next meeting will be this Friday, August 17th, at 7:30, at the Garland's home (1324 N. Norton Ave.) We will cover chapters 6-8. We will have refreshments, but eat dinner beforehand.

## **Tucson Women's Conference**

All of the PCA churches in Tucson are joining together for this conference, and Rondi Lauterbach will be the speaker.

From Empty to Full: Living in the Plenty of Christ

Friday, 9/14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, 9/15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Buffet style lunch provided

Registration:\$30 (scholarships available)

Payment can be made during registration or on-line at the DSPC website.

Midtown Presbyterian Church

[www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org)

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