



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

07.14.2024

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. All of our kiddos will meet in the Hamilton House. Check in is at the west end of the courtyard. Children's Ministry will only be ages 0-3 for the summer. August 4th we will kick off Children's Ministry for ages 0-6th grade. Please be patient with the extra wiggles and noise as we have younger children joining us for the summer.

Reflection

I had overlooked one essential factor-that I am as finite and flawed as everyone else. ... When a friend committed suicide, I realized I could become too cynical, too lost, and too alone. I needed a church, a community of believers. I needed to live in my faith and visit my doubts. Something happens there that simply doesn't when you are alone in prayer or on the Internet. As much as I hate to admit it, my faith is enhanced and enlarged when in relationship to other less-than-perfect human beings. In retrospect, I can say that I joined the church out of basic need; I was becoming a Christian, and as the religion can't be practiced alone, I needed to try to align myself with a community of faith.

--Carmen Renee Berry

The Word

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.

Call to Worship

Psalm 111:2-5

Great are the works of the Lord;

they are pondered by all who delight in them.

³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

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.


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.

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

1 John 1:5-6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Confession of Sin

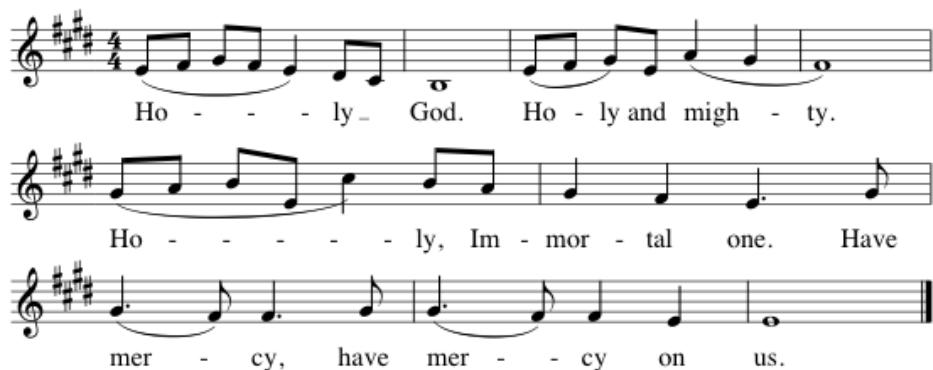
[Pray aloud together]

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; And free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. 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

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!

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Music and Lyrics by Stuart Townsend

How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all mea -
5
sure, that he should give his on-ly Son to make a wretch his trea -
9
sure. How great the pain of sear-ing loss, the Fa-ther turns his face a -
13
way; as wounds which mar the Cho - sen
15
One bring ma - ny sons to glo - - ry.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "How Deep the Father's Love For Us". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 13, and 15. The music ends with a double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; his wounds have paid my ransom.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Dear God, help us love your ways.

**May we trust that following you is best for us
even when we must deny ourselves.**

(Please pray silently for our struggle against sin.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us love our families and friends.

**Provide opportunity for reconciliation where needed, and
may we not take for granted those who are close.**

(Please pray silently for wholeness in our relationships.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Help us love our enemies.

May we seek to live peaceably with all people.

(Please pray silently for peace.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us love our city.

May we care for the poor, oppressed, and lonely.

(Please pray silently that we would be a blessing to our city.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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: Frances Willberg]

Romans 3:27-30

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:5-13

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

Revelation Song

Music & Lyrics: Jamie Lee Riddle

Verse



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain; hol-y, hol-y is he; _



Sing a new song to him who sits on heav-en's mer-cy seat. _

Chorus



Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord God Al might - y.



Who was _ and is _ and is _ to come; _



With all cre-a - tion I sing praise to the King of kings; _



You are my ev-'ry-thing _ and I will a-dore you!

Clothed in rainbows of living color;
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be
To you the only wise King. [Chorus]

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, At the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water;
Such a marv'lous mystery. [Chorus]

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 18:5-27

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. ⁶And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her," ⁷Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. ⁸Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and how the Lord had delivered them. ⁹And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." ¹²And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

¹³The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." ¹⁷Moses' father-in-law said to him,

“What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, ²⁰and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²²And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.”

²⁴So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²⁶And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. ²⁷Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. Amen.

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.

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 one of the aisles. 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 same aisle.]

Jesus I Come

Music: Greg Thompson; Lyrics: William Sleeper

Out of my bon - dage, sor-row and night, Je - sus I come;
Je - sus I come. - In - to thy free - dom, glad-ness and light
Je - sus I come to thee. - Out of my sick-ness in - to thy
health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth, out of my
sin - and in - to thy - self, Je - sus I - come to thee. -

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus I come to Thee.

We Will Feast In the House of Zion

Lyrics and Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The first line has a 4/4 time signature. The second line has a 7/4 time signature. The third line has a 2/4 time signature. The fourth line has a 4/4 time signature. The fifth line has a 4/4 time signature. The sixth line has a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther, We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up.'

We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our
hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther,
We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be
burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not con-
sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the Faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring shalom!

Benediction

JETHRO ADVISES MOSES

Exodus 18:1-27



Jethro tells Moses that he should choose judges to help out

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).



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.

Joining Midtown: If you're interested in becoming a member of Midtown, either coming from a different church or becoming a new Christian, please let Charles know (charles@mpctucson.org). We'll schedule an intro class to get you prepared when we see people's availability.

Men's Book Group: For July we are reading C.S. Lewis's The Great Divorce. We'll meet at the McReynold's home (1241 E Sobre Lomas) on Tuesday July 16, at 7pm.

Women's Book Group: We're reading Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck. We'll meet on July 26th @ 7pm at Melissa McRae's home (409 E Lester St.).

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Children's Director: Annalyse Rash
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Interns: Paige Jackson & Russ Whitt

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