



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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10.18.2020

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

"Doing one's own thing", or any of the other similar passwords of our time, such as "I'm OK, you're OK," may seem to have a little Pride in them. Where is the claim to superiority in them? Do they not merely ask to be allowed to live and let live? But what we eventually find in them is an assertion of self-sufficiency—a denial of one's need for community with others, which is in fact a form of selfishness, since it is always accompanied by a refusal of one's obligation of community with others. The steps from a reasonable self-concern to an utter selfishness are short and swift. Most of the prescriptions for "self actualization" today or rationalizations for an aggressive self-centeredness and, and some of their forms, for violent aggression by oneself against other selves who get in the way. If it is not aggression, then it is manipulation, and the end is always the same: always striking or maneuvering to take first place, to domineer over others and one's environment, even to seek revenge for real or supposed slights. What is invited is Pride.

--Henry Fairlie

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.

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.

The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -
joice. From world to world, the joy shall ring, - "The Lord om -
Chorus
ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! - Lord of
Lords, An-cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his
Praise! - All your - days, all your - days.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must; The judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

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.

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.]

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Lyrics: John Newton; Music: Wedell Kimbrough

4 1. Pen-sive doubt-ing fear-ful heart, hear what Christ the Sav-ior _

8 says; Ev-'ry word should joy im-part, change thy mourn ing in-to

12 praise. Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee, may He help thee _ to be _

14 lieve; Then thou pre - sent - ly will

see, thou hast lit - tle cause to _ grieve.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the staff, with line numbers 4, 8, 12, and 14 indicating the start of each line of text.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed; All thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I the High and Holy One, Israel's God, by all adored,
As thy Savior will be known, Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew, And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew; Thou shall soon rejoice again;
Though I seem to hide my face, Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space, Ending in eternal peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Our consciences are weak and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness. So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lyrics: Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music: Christopher Miner

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day'.

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the
sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a
home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the
burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess;
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father,
since You have promised to grant our requests,
we make our supplications to You in the name of
Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence). Amen.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to
be wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (silence). Amen.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving
grace through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence). 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.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

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.**

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Nikki Smith]

Proverbs 16:5,18-19

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 23:2-12

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Solid Rock

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers



My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and



right-eous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain



On Christ, the so-lid rock, I ____ stand; all o-ther ground is _



sand, is sink-ing sand. On Christ, the so - lid rock, I ____



__stand; all o-ther ground is _ sand, is sink-ing sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil,
My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone, And faultless stand before the throne,
And faultless stand before the throne. [Refrain]

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:3-8

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Charles Garland

Sermons are God's appointed means to communicate his Good News to a particular group of people in a particular local context. Sermons, by design, aren't impressive, so that God will get credit when he uses them in your life, rather than the preacher.

The Table

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.

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.

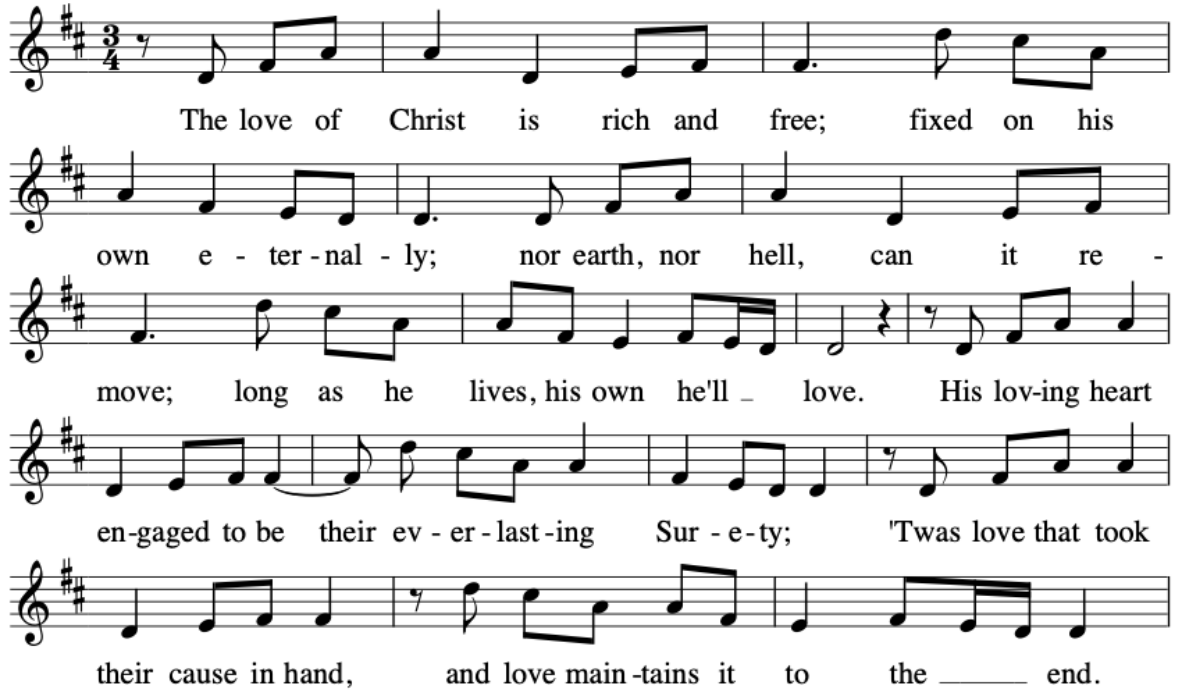
The Giving of the Bread and Cup

[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 cups on the taller table have wine and the ones in the silver tray have grape juice.]

The Love of Christ Is Rich and Free

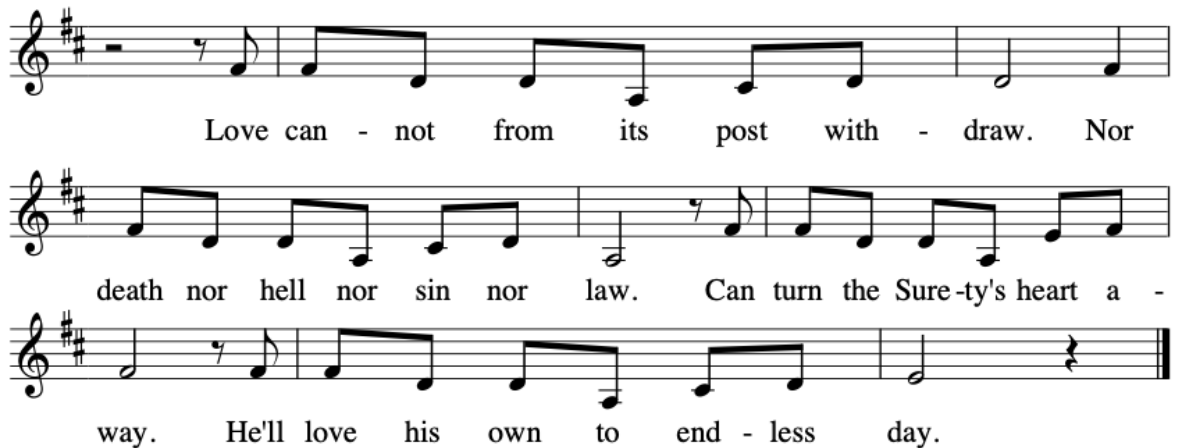
Lyrics: William Gadsby; Music: Sandra McCracken

Verse



The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on his
own e - ter - nal - ly; nor earth, nor hell, can it re -
move; long as he lives, his own he'll - love. His lov-ing heart
en-gaged to be their ev - er - last-ing Sur - e - ty; 'Twas love that took
their cause in hand, and love main - tains it to the _____ end.

Chorus



Love can - not from its post with - draw. Nor
death nor hell nor sin nor law. Can turn the Sure - ty's heart a -
way. He'll love his own to end - less day.

Love has redeemed his sheep with blood;
And love will bring them safe to God;
Love calls them all from death to life;
And love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
Nor aught from him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart
Can make his love for her depart. [Chorus]

At death, beyond the grave, he'll love;
In endless bliss, his own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love
Which never could from them remove,
Which never could from them remove.

Jesus Paid It All

—Lyrics & Music: Elvina M. Hall

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics: "I hear the Sav-ior say, 'Thy strength in-deed is small, child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all.'" The third staff is labeled "Chorus" and contains the lyrics: "Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;" The fourth staff continues the chorus with the lyrics: "Sin had left a crim-son stain, he washed it white as snow." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests.

I hear the Sav-ior say, "Thy strength in-deed is small, child of
weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
Chorus
Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;
Sin had left a crim-son stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.

O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead;
O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead!

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.

November Joint Book Group: We will have our annual joint book club (men and women) dinner to discuss The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 PM. Location is the McReynolds patio (4779 E. Avenida del Cazador). Please RSVP to Matt or Dana McReynolds if you plan to attend so they know how much food to prepare.

Hootenanny: Saturday Night, also on the McReynolds’ patio, at 7:00pm. Bring instruments and a couple of prepared songs (or just come to hang out and listen.) You don’t need to be an expert musician at all.

Monday Soccer in the Mall: Monday evenings at 5:30 a group is meeting on the U of A mall to play soccer. Everyone is welcome.

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

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.



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH