



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

07.28.2024

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

Why do people in churches seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute?... On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return.

— Annie Dillard

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 99:9

Exalt the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy!

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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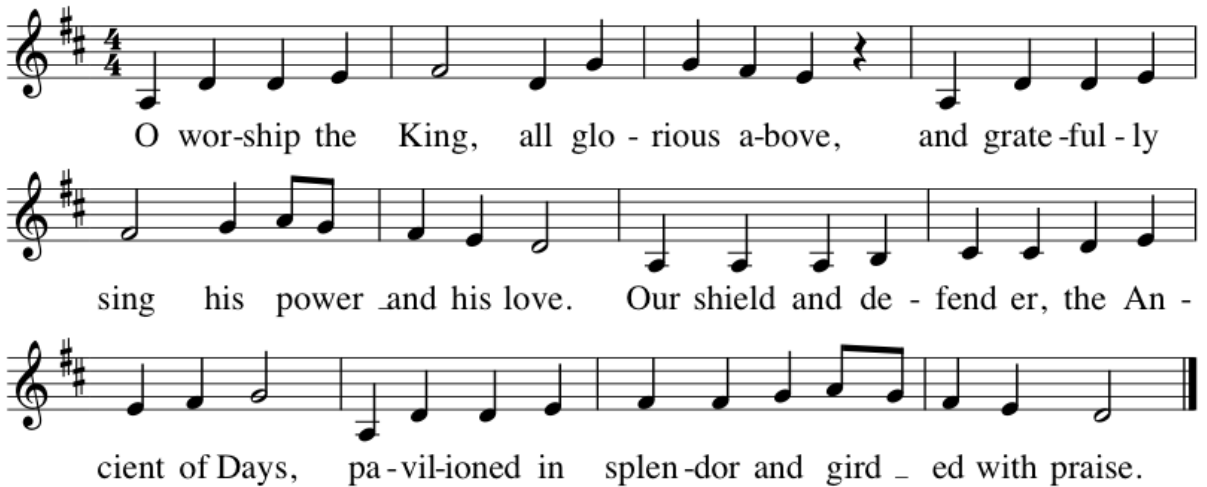
Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er

10

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

O Worship the King

Lyrics: Robert Grant; Music: Johann Haydn



O wor-ship the King, all glo - rious a-bove, and grate-ful - ly
sing his power and his love. Our shield and de - fend er, the An -
cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together.]

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know that you care for us and cherish us. We know that you empower us and give us hope. We know that you provide us with direction, comfort, and peace.

We confess that we have not loved you as you have asked us to love. We take you for granted and fail to acknowledge your good gifts. We allow the opinions of others to drive us even to the point of disobedience. We do not want others to know that we follow you. We look to the wisdom of world to guide as opposed to your Word.

We confess our sin with the bold confidence that you will continue to love us. You will not reject. You will not abandon. You will forgive.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

John 12:46-47

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

We Are Not Overcome

—Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell & Robert Heiskell



Flesh will fail _ and bones will break; thieves will steal, _ the earth will



shake. Night will fall, _ the light will fade; _ the Lord will give, and take a-

Refrain



way; Be-cause of His great _ love, we are not o-ver-come!



Be-cause of His great _ love we are not o-ver-come!

Put no trust in the earth, in the sod you stand upon.

Flowers fade into dust;

The Lord will make a place for us. [Refrain]

Have no fear for your life, Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath. [Refrain]

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Tim Davis]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you
commanded the apostles to go into the entire world
and preach the gospel to every person.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a
ready will to obey your word.

Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

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

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

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

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

May our children follow you all of their lives.

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

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.

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.
Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.
(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples to pray, saying:
**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: Stephanie Bowyer]

Hebrews 12:28-29

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:12-16

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ
People: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Come Ye Sinners

Lyrics: Joseph Hart Music: Southern Harmony



Come ye sin-ners, poor and need-y, weak and wounded, sick and sore;



Je-sus rea-dy stands to save you, full of pit - y, - love and power.

Refrain



I will a-rise and go to Je-sus; he will em-brace me in his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav - ior,



O there are ten - thou - sand charms.

Come, ye thirsty; come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.
[Refrain]

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all. [Refrain]

Lo! The incarnate God ascended Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture wholly; Let no other trust intrude. [Refrain]

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 19:7-25

So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. ⁹And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, ¹⁰the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." ¹⁴So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. ¹⁵And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰The Lord came

down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish.

²²Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." ²³And Moses said to

the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'" ²⁴And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them." ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

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 Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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 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.]

Rock of Ages

Lyrics: Augustus Toplady; Music: Matt McReynolds

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

Music & Lyrics: Wendell Kimbrough



1. We were wan - d'ring in the des - ert with our souls
2. We were locked out of the gar - den and our backs



so starved and weak; we were hun - gry for a home
bend down with pain in the sha - dow of death's dark -



- land we did not know how to seek, but we lift -
- ness we were slaves to sin and blame then we cried



- ed up our voi - ces to the on - ly one who hears
out in our la - bor to the on - ly one who hears



and the God of mer - cy came and brought us near.

Chorus



Oh give thanks to the Lord for His love en - dures for - ev -



- er! We were wan - der - ing and lost and our Fa -



- ther brought us home to a safe dwel - ling place to a feast



of joy and laugh - ter. Oh give thanks

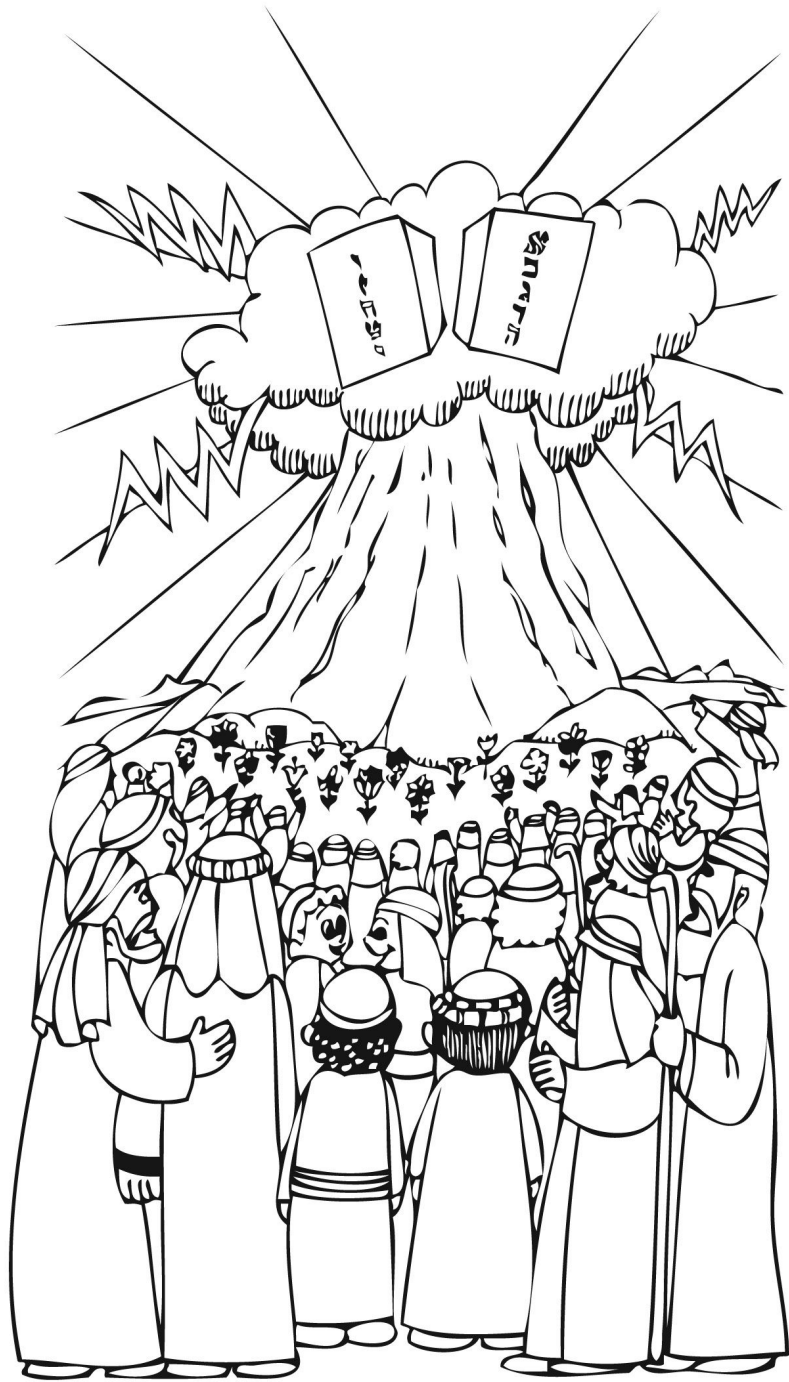


to the Lord for he is good.

We were fools in our rebellion with our hunger strike of pride;
We were sick and growing closer to the death we should have died,
Then he heard of our condition, and he called us by our names,
And the God of glory took away our shame. [Chorus]

We were far out on the ocean making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction brought us
trembling to our knees,
Then we cried like drunken sailors to the only One who hears
And the God of comfort took away our tears. [Chorus]

Benediction



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.

Children's Ministry Kickoff: Next Sunday we are beginning our new Children's Ministry schedule, with Children's church for our grade school kids during the sermon time, and for the younger ones during the whole worship service. We'll have a celebration after the service in the courtyard next week, too.

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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