



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

02.05.2023

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

As you will have noticed, the world did not come to an end or, to be precise, "begin to come to an end" on Saturday evening at 6:00 local time, wherever you happened to be. The latest false prophet to be picked up by the media for the comic possibilities he provided proved to be wrong, as everyone but the gullible and deceived knew he would.

Christians may cringe or shrug or roll our eyes, or may even laugh along with everyone else, but such speculations do not merely amuse the secular and embarrass the religious. They hurt people. There is a reason Scripture is so hard on false prophets, no matter how sincere they seem to be.

—David Mills

The Word

Call to Worship

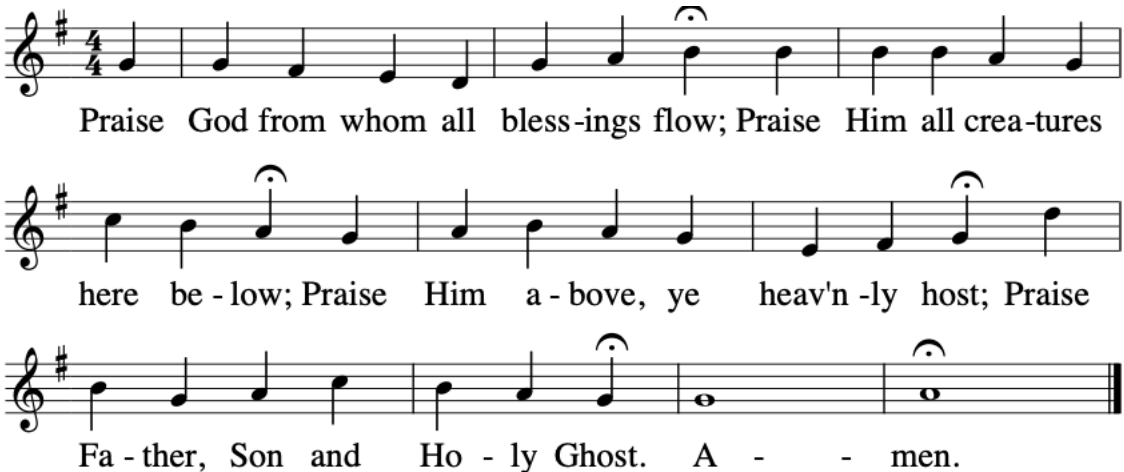
Psalm 57:9-11

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!

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



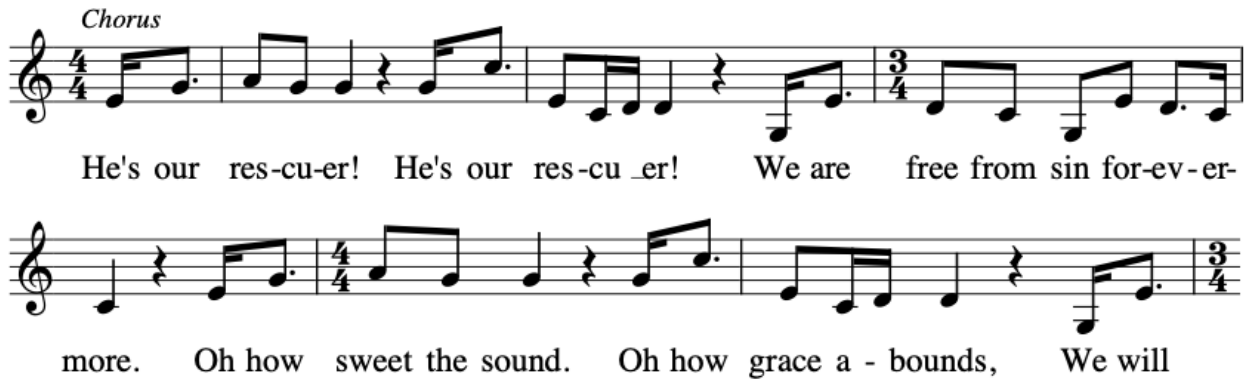
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

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

Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

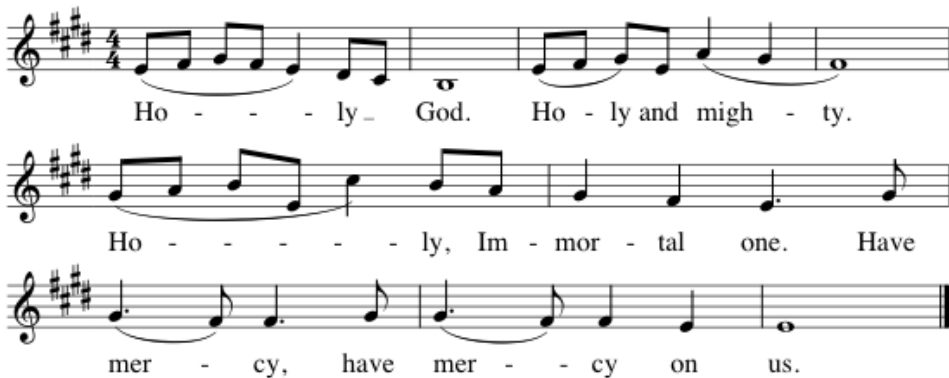
[Pray aloud together]

Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls. 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

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William Runyan; Lyrics: Thomas Chisholm



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;



Thou chang - est not, thy comp - pas - sions they fail not;



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

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.

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.

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.**

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.**

O God, everlasting Father, your kingdom comes by your power.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom to us.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom through us.

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.

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Stephanie Bowyer]

Ezekiel 13:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 7:15-20

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Let This Heart Not Wander

Lyrics & Music: Eric J. Marshall

Let my eyes see no-thing, let my eyes see no-thing but your
glo-ry, my Lord. _ Let my eyes see no-thing, let my
eyes see no-thing but your glo-ry, my Lord. _

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

May I always linger, May I always linger,
In your presence, my Lord. (repeat)

I will ever praise you, I will ever praise you,
You are worthy, my Lord. (repeat)

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 2:1-21

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵if he did not spare the ancient world, but, preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, ¹¹whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹²But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, ¹³suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to

revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. ¹⁴They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

¹⁷These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²²What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

**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 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 the center aisle.. 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 outside aisles.]

Yet Not I But Christ in Me

Music & Lyrics: Johnny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Je-sus, my re - deem-er. There is no
more for hea-ven now to give; He is my joy, my right-ous-ness and
free-dom; my stead-fast love, my deep and bound-less peace. To this I
hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus! For my life is whol-ly bound to
his. O how strange and di-vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing;
for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead;
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid;
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea;
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for He has said that He will bring me home;
And day by day, I know He will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me."

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Lyrics & Music: Robert Lowry

5 What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing -but the blood of Je - sus!

9 What can make me whole a-gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

13 O, pre-cious is the flow, that makes me white as sn - ow!

No o-ther fount I know. No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Nothing But the Blood of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts at measure 5, the second at measure 9, and the third at measure 13. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Benediction

Super Bowl Sunday

We know the service hits right at the game beginning next week, so we are going to record the game and start it after church at the Garland's house for anyone who wants to come. The address is 1324 N Norton Ave. We'll have snacks and drinks, but feel free to bring anything you want to share. We'll probably start the game around 7pm.

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.



New Small Group: Cameron Ward is going to lead a new small group for studying the Heidelberg Catechism and prayer. We will meet twice monthly beginning February 13th at the Jankowski's home ([317 E Canyon View Dr](#)). All are welcome.

Ladies Spa Night @ the McRae's: (409 E. Lester St). Feb 17, 7pm. Bring your nail polish, face masks, foot baths, etc to share in a night of pampering.

Men's Book Group: Wednesday Night, 2/15 at 7:00 at the McReynold's ([1241 E Sobre Lomas](#)). We are reading [Christ and Culture](#) by Richard Niebuhr.

Nursery Changes: Beginning on 2/26 we are going to be separating our nursery during the service between Ages 0-3 and Ages 3-6. We are working on adding a children's church for Ages 6-7 during the sermon, but aren't ready to roll that out just yet. Stay tuned!

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Byker
Church Planting Resident: Nick Davis
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein

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