



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

First Sunday in Advent

11.28.2021

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**

Some people think the fall of man had something to do with sex, but that is a mistake.... What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could "be like gods"— could set up on their own as if they had created themselves—be their own masters—invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

—C. S. Lewis

# The Word

## Call to Worship—

[Dave, Vivi, Ian & Cecelia Adams]

## Lighting of the Prophet's Candle

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

The first candle reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come, as Isaiah prophesied: "The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel!"

On Christmas day the Christ of our hope was born. On Good Friday the Christ of our hope died. On Easter day the Christ of our hope rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

# Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Music: Rowland Pritchett; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Come Thou long \_ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.



From our fear \_and sins re - lease \_ us, let us find our rest \_ in Thee.



Is - rael's strength \_and con - so - la - tion, hope of all \_the saints Thou art.



Dear \_de - sire \_ of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

## Prayer of Invocation

# Call to Confession of Sin

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Confession of Sin

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

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.

## Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly. An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer; Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.'

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,  
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.  
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Lyrics: Frank Houghton; Music: French Carol

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's  
sake be - cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,  
sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -  
yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - came - est poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art God beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship Thee.

## **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.

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.

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,  
**Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.**

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,  
**We ask for grace and wisdom.**

(Pray for those who minister the gospel.)

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,

**We ask for your faithful love.**

(Pray for the unbelieving.)



For governors and rulers in every land,

**We ask for your guidance.**

(Pray for our leaders.)

For people who suffer and grieve,

**We ask for your healing peace.**

(Pray for the suffering.)

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words He taught us, 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]

Genesis 3:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 3:22-27

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# **O Come, O Come Emmanuel— MPC Christmas Choir**

## **New Testament Reading**

1 John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

## **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 red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

# Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Lyrics: James Montgomery; Music: Vito Aiuto

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son! - Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! - He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, - to take away transgression, and rule in equity. -' The music is written in treble clef and features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son! -  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! -  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, -  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity. -

He comes, with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for singing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers spring in his path to birth;  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness, like fountains from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever: his name alone is love.

## The First Noel



The first no - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor  
shep - herds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay -  
keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -  
el, no - el, no - el, no - el.  
Born is the King of Is - - ra - el.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

The star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

## 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](http://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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**Monday Soccer:** Monday at 5:00 at the U of A Mall.

**Holiday Donations:** We’re collecting donations through Thursday, December 2, 2021 for care packages for students. We need microwave popcorn, coffee/tea singles, bottled water, chewing gum, pencils/pens, granola/protein bars, individually wrapped pretzels, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers, and candy. We also are collecting canned food for needy neighbors.

Bring donations to church or contact Rebekah Taylor ([Rebekah.taylor@ruf.org](mailto:Rebekah.taylor@ruf.org)).

**Women’s Christmas Cookie Swap:** Sunday morning, 12/12 @ 11:00. At the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Bring at least 2 dozen cookies to share.

**Pastor:** Charles Garland  
**Minister in Residence:** Nick Davis  
**Music Director:** Sarah Lewis  
**RUF Staff:** Dan & Brittany Smith  
**RUF Intern:** Rebekah Taylor

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