



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

01.31.2021

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 aren't having a nursery for a couple of more weeks. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you, though.

Reflection

“The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley...” [that is “often go awry”]

—Robert Burns

Ninety percent of the will of God is found from your neck up.

—Howard Hendricks

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 118:28-29

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

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.

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.

All Creatures of our God and King

Lyrics: St. Francis of Assisi; Music: William Draper

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Creatures of our God and King'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/2 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are: 'All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us'. The second staff continues: 'sing, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en'. The third staff continues: 'beam, thou sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam, O - praise him, O -'. The fourth staff concludes: 'praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!'. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and a fermata over a note in the second staff.

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning find a voice! O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care! O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to you,
O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice
of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

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.]

Psalm 130

Lyrics: Martin Luther; Music: Christopher Minor

From the depths of woe I raise to thee, the voice
of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord - turn a gra - cious ear
to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion. If thou in - i - qui - ties

Men:

dost mark our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O - who shall

Women: O - who shall stand be - fore thee?

stand be - fore thee? *Men:* O - who shall

Women: Who shall stand be - fore thee?

stand be - fore thee?

To wash away the crimson stain, Grace, grace alone availeth;
 Our works, alas! Are all in vain; In much the best life faileth;
 No man can glory in Thy sight, All must alike confess Thy might,
 And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)
 And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Psalm 130 (Continued)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience) 2x

What though I wait the live-long night, and 'til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might; it doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait 'til God appeareth (Wait 'til God appeareth) 2x

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow) 2x

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.

O God the Father, from whom the whole church
in heaven and earth is named; O God the Son,
who lives as head over the church; O God the
Holy Spirit, who gathers and perfects the church;
O Holy Trinity, eternal love:

Have mercy upon us.

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.

That it may please you to strengthen and enlarge your holy Church in every land, and to unite all those who profess and call themselves Christians in faith and hope and love:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for the church)

That your Church may strive, not for its own safety, but for the world's salvation, seeking only your kingdom and your righteousness:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for those who don't believe.)

That you will grant to all ministers of your Word and Sacraments the spirit of wisdom, power, and love, and call many more to the work of your ministry:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for the Church's ministers.)

That, regardless of the praise or contempt of the world, your Church may worship and adore you in spirit and in truth:

We pray to you, O Lord.

[Take a moment in silent prayer to bring your personal requests to God.]

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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

Psalm 37:3-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 21:20-22

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

In Christ Alone

Lyrics & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

3 In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my
6 light, my strength, my song; This cor - ner - stone, this sol-id
9 ground, firm through the fier-cest drought and storm. What heights of
12 love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
14 cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It consists of six staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a 7-measure rest on the first staff, followed by the lyrics. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death! This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

New Testament Reading

Romans 15:22-33

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.**

We use the ancient creeds and confessions 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 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 red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down;
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he;
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he. [Chorus]

The table now is spread, the table now is spread;
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed,
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near. [Chorus & Repeat First Verse]

We Will Feast In the House of Zion

Lyrics and Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. 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."

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

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.

Midtown Institute: During 2021 we are going to hold a training class for people interested in taking on more leadership in our church, whether as a ministry team leader, small group leader, elder or deacon, or if you just want to be better prepared to serve Christ in your home and work. The class will cover our church’s beliefs, perspectives on ministry, personal character and spiritual life. We will meet 20 times during the year and you’ll need to do a good bit of reading/preparation. We will set the meeting days/times once we have a list of participants. Please let Charles know if you want to be a part.

Women’s Bible Study: will resume in March.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

Men’s Book Group: We are reading John Updike’s Rabbit Run in February, and the meeting is Tuesday, 2/9.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra & Rebekah Taylor

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