



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

First Sunday after Epiphany

01.12.2020

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. We have a nursery provided for little ones. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?

—Squealer, in *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.

—St. Paul, to the church in Thessalonica

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.

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.

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

ry. There is re - demp - tion, for ev - 'ry af -

flic - tion. Here at the foot of Cal - va - ry.

fear - less. Come to the foot of Cal - va -

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14-15

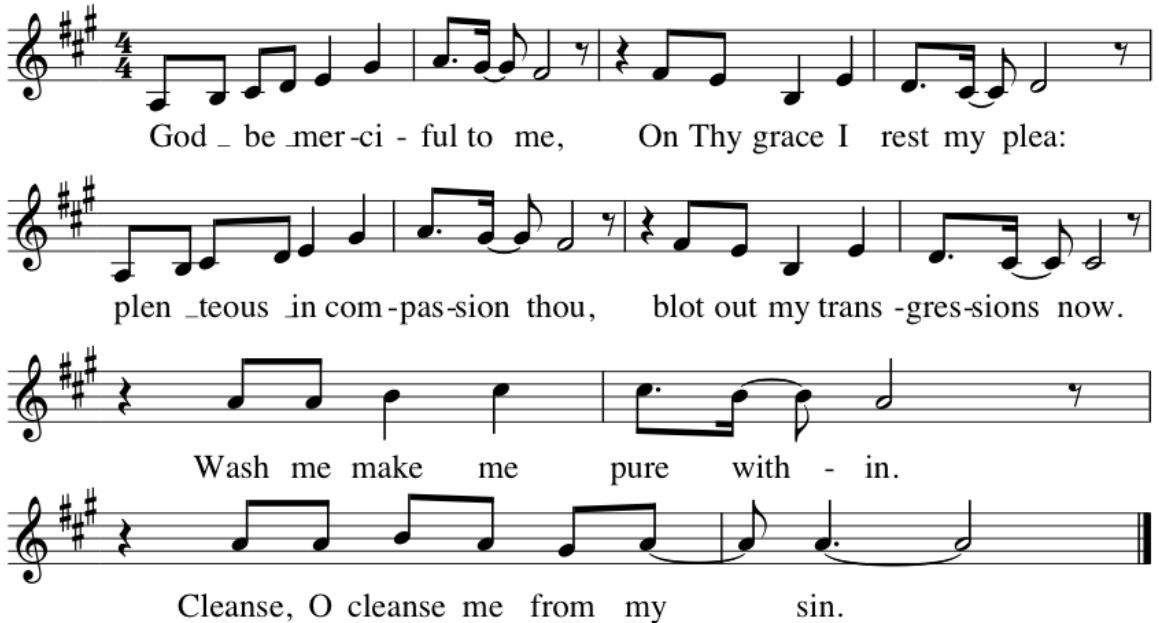
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Confession of Sin

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

Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God - be - mer - ci - ful to me, On Thy grace I rest my plea:
plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou, blot out my trans - gres - sions now.
Wash me make me pure with - in.
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgement just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.
From my sins, oh, hide thy face: Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from thee; let my spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart: Steadfast make my willing heart.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.


Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!


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]

The Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amid the conflicts of this passing world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you:

Save and help us, O Lord.

From pride, selfishness, greed and anger; from passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ as well as war among nations:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for peace (silence). Amen.

As you have blessed our nation so richly, we pray for the President and all in authority over us, that they would lead with wisdom and truth:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for those who lead (silence). Amen.

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

Save and help us, O Lord.

Let us pray for all who struggle with the gospel (silence). Amen.

For all who suffer: the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

Save and help us, O Lord.

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

Isaiah 53:4-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-7

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing
Bridge
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

Acts 17:1-15

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women ⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas

and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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 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 provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

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 bloodSupport 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]

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;
pros-trate ly-ing, suf-f'ring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
Vic'try gain-ing, life ob - tain-ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth; He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever, Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

Benediction

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you.

New Women's Bible Study this Wednesday, at 7:00, at the Garland's home (1324 N Norton Ave). We'll be using Tim Keller's book on Romans 1-7.

Core Team: Next Saturday morning from 8:00 - 9:30 we'll have a meeting (also at the Garland's) to pray for the church and learn about dealing with common objections to the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith

Midtown Presbyterian Church
www.mpctucson.org
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717
678.849.7918

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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