



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

12.18.2022

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

Mary did you know that your Magnificat makes you sound like a raving Marxist? Mary did you know that powerful men consider your words alarmist? Mary did you know that governments will censor the song you sang? And although I am a Protestant, I really want to join your gang.

—Michael F. Bird

In Luke 1, two pregnant women celebrate their new motherhood by passionately discussing the coming overthrow of every earthly empire.

—Kaitelyn Schiess

The Word

Call to Worship—

Lighting of the Peace Candle

The first candle in the Advent wreath, the Prophecy Candle, reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come.

The second candle, the Bethlehem Candle, reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall.

The third candle, the Shepherd's Candle, reminds us of the joy of the shepherds as they heard the good news of Jesus' arrival.

The fourth candle is the Angels' candle. It reminds us of the angels' song of peace for all the earth, as we find in Luke's gospel: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'"

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

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Music & Lyrics: James Montgomery & Henry Smart

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;'. The second staff contains 'Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:'. The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.'.

An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:

Refrain
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
[Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
[Refrain]

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

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.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

[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

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

What Child Is This?

Lyrics: William C. Dix; Music: Greensleeves



What child is this who laid to rest; on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing? Whom



an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep herds watch are keep-ing?



This, this _ is Christ the King, whom shep-hards guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste _ to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Ma - ry.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross he bore for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

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.

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.

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.

(Please pray silently for the ministry of the church.) Amen.

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

We pray for peace in every corner of the world: in Afghanistan and Ukraine, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.

(Please pray silently for our world.) Amen.

Lord, you offer comfort to those who are in need.

We commend to you all who are afflicted: those who are ill, those who suffer in poverty, those who wrestle with all sorts of addictions, as well as those who sorrow, that they will be comforted in their time of tribulation.

(Please pray silently for all who suffer.) Amen.

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in our history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray now in the words he taught us:

**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: Nikki Smith]

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Messiah

MPC Children's Choir

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, **47**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48**for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49**for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **50**And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52**he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53**he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **54**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55**as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.]

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Music & Lyrics: Polish Folk Carol and Isaac Wardell, Kate Bluett, Paul Zach

In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, hea-ven's high - est love come
down. For the poor, you left your glo - ry and you laid a - side your
crown. Weak and help - less, here you slum - ber in a
sta - ble with your mo - ther as the shep-herds ga - ther
'round Do you they know you've left your crown?

Infant holy, Infant Lowly, You who once held heaven's pow'r,
Now You be here, cold and hungry in the silent midnight hour.
With Your parents wrapped in worry, still exhausted from the journey.
You were helpless in that hour, Yet You set aside Your pow'r.

Infant Holy, Infant lowly, King of kings and Lord of lords.
You have come to us with nothing, as the poorest of the poor.
So we come to You in wonder, see You helpless as You slumber,
And we lay our gift before Christ the Savior, weak and poor.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Traditional

Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where; -



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

Verse



While shep - hers kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -



hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light -

The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [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. 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.

Afghani Dinner Boxes After the service today, an Afghani Christian family from the Vineyard will be serving us boxed dinners to eat here or take with us. The suggested cost is \$12/per meal. Pay what you can and the church will make up whatever we need to. They are raising money for the relief of Afghani and Pakistani believers this Christmas.

Congregational Meeting: We'll have a congregational meeting after church on January 8th to present the budget and talk about plans for the coming year.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Brandi Fenton Park: 5:00 pm at the Pavilion at the west end of the Park. Enter at the intersection of E River Rd and Alvernon; the Pavilion is down on the right. Bring **your own chairs** if you want them—the service should last about 40 minutes. (Dogs are ok, too, if they can handle it.)

Christmas Day Service: We will meet at 5:00 a the Vineyard. We will have a whole family service that day (no nursery) that accommodates the little ones, too.

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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