



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday of Lent

03.24.2019

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 in the narthex. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

We've been together for a while. I have a lot of affection for her I guess, but I wouldn't say I'm in love. We have good sex. But it's not the kind of sex I could see myself having for the rest of my life. Not that I don't enjoy it – I do, we do – but I don't think that I wouldn't wonder if there was something better out there if we carried on down the path I think she thinks we're heading down. I don't think I could marry her is what I'm saying, I guess. But I don't think I want to break-up with her just now, because, if I am honest, I'd prefer to be with her than without her 'in the meantime'.

—Anonymous

Chastity is the most unpopular of the Christian virtues. There is no getting away from it: the old Christian rule is, "Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence." Now this is so difficult and so contrary to our instincts, that obviously either Christianity is wrong or our sexual instinct, as it is now, has gone wrong....You can get a large audience together for a strip-tease act—that is, to watch a girl undress on the stage. Now suppose you came to a country where you could fill a theatre by simply bringing a covered plate on to the stage and then slowly lifting the cover so as to let everyone see, just before the lights went out, that it contained a mutton chop or a bit of bacon, would you not think that in that country something had gone wrong with the appetite for food? And would not anyone who had grown up in a different world think that there was something equally queer about the state of the sex instinct among us?

—C. S. Lewis

One of the most telling things about contemporary human beings is that they cannot find a reason for not committing adultery. Yet intimacy is a spiritual hunger of the human soul, and we cannot escape it.

--Dallas Willard

The Word

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:1-3

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

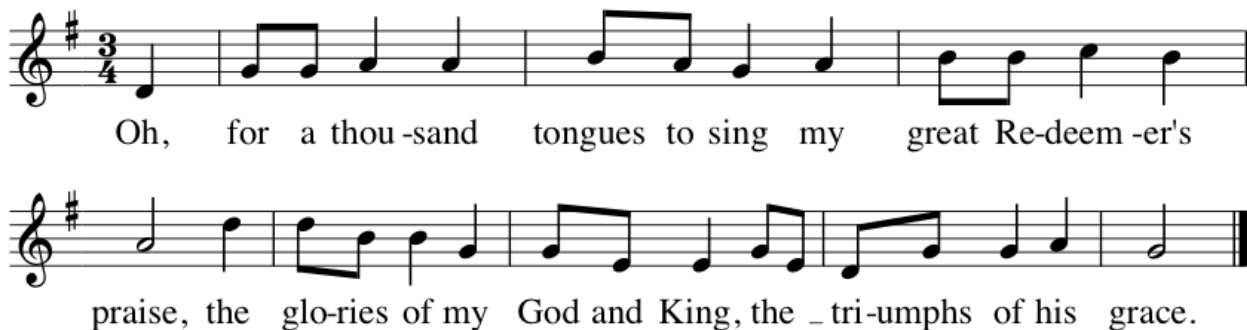
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's
praise, the glo-ries of my God and King, the _tri-umphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

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

Isaiah 44:21-22

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

He is Faithful to Forgive

Music & Lyrics: Greg de Bileck



1. Oh saints, who know his won - drous grace, should
2. For - give - ness we have had be - fore from



it not cause us to la - ment our way-ward hearts that shun his
sins and stub-born hearts of stone. Yet we are burd - ened now by



gaze; the love we scorn with proud con - tempt. to Verse 2
more and shame would warn us from his throne

Chorus



But he is faith-ful to for-give: So let us hum-bly lay our sins be-fore his



cross, and cru-ci-fy them all; we'll stand ac-cused by them no more.

The freedom that his cross achieves.
How slow we are to understand;
Transforming pow'r each one receives
Each day from God's own gracious hand.

And he is faithful to forgive,
So let us humbly lay out sins before
His cross, and crucify them all
Let us be chained to them no more.

The darkness soon shall pass away
Before the Son of Righteousness
Saints, usher in that glorious day,
And let no sin stay unconfessed.

For his is faithful to forgive:
So let us humbly lay our sins before
His cross and crucify them all
We stand, condemned by them no more.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Our Father, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

**We pray for the President of the United States,
and our representatives in Congress.**

We pray for peace between the nations of the world.

We plead for your mercy on our nation.

(Pray for justice and peace in the world.)

Holy Spirit you are the Lord and giver of life.

**We pray for Midtown Presbyterian Church
and the churches of our Presbytery.**

We pray for the spread of your gospel in Tucson.

(Pray for friends who do not yet know Christ.)

Jesus you are full of compassion.

We pray for the relief of the poor and oppressed in our city.

We pray for those who are ill or facing imminent death,

And for those who care for them.

(Please pray for all who suffer.)

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

Please give us delight and diligence in our callings.

Please provide for those seeking work.

Please make us a blessing to our city through our work.

(Pray for God's help to you in your calling.)

And teach us to pray as you taught your disciples, 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

Proverbs 5:15-21

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

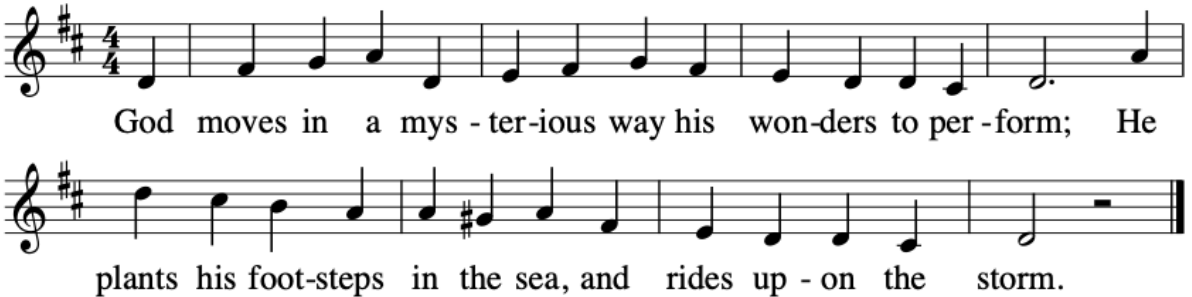
Matthew 5:27-30

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

Lyrics and Music: William Cowper



God moves in a mys - ter - ious way his won - ders to per - form; He
plants his foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Minister: 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.**

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.]

Sursum Corda

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.**

Words of Institution

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.]

Thy Mercy My God

--Lyrics: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Thy Mercy My God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: 'Thy mer-cy, my God, is the theme _ of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast _ of my tongue; Thy free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.'

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The second staff continues: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter). The third staff continues: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter). The fourth staff continues: D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), ending with a double bar line.

O love that will not let me go I rest
my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back
the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths
its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Benediction

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the front of the nave that you can use as you enter or leave, or as you come to communion. 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.

Combined Good Friday Service: April 19, 6:00pm, Catalina Foothills Church (2150 E Orange Grove Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718).

Men's Book Group: Given For You, by Keith Mathison. Meet at the Garland's house (1324 N Norton Ave) on April 11th at 7:00. Matt McReynolds will lead us.

Women's Bible Study: Starts this Wednesday at 7:00pm at the Garland's house (1324 N Norton Ave). Seven week study on Jesus in the Gospels, but feel free to drop in as you are able. Julie's contact: julie.garland@gmail.com, 678.849.8401.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Pastoral Resident: Luke Smith
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Ministers: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Intern: Erin Fitzpatrick

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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