

**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Distancing & Safety Plan

So we can more safely meet together for worship we ask you to help us observe the following:

1. We will space out the chairs as much as we can.
2. Wear masks so we can sing.
3. Communion will involve coming forward without crowding, and picking up a cup and wafer from the altar rail in front of the pulpit. The separate table of cups will have grape juice if you prefer that. The wafers are gluten free.
4. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
5. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

# Evening Worship

First Sunday in Advent

11.29.2020

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.

## Reflection

The celebration of the season of Advent (which begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas day) dates back to the fourth century. It is a time that focuses our attention on Christ's first coming as well as his second coming when he will return to redeem all of creation and rule with all power and authority. Since we know not the day or the hour of Christ's return we are filled with both a sense of joyful expectation and humble reverence, with our spiritual focus being on lives of prayer and preparation.

Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is purple, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. Purple is also the color used during Lent, the season leading up to Easter. This points to the important connection between Jesus' birth, death, and Resurrection.

One way that we mark the time of this season is with the Advent wreath. The evergreens help to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus Christ. The wreath consists of five candles; four candles around the wreath and one white candle in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday of Advent, with the center, "Christ candle", lit on Christmas Eve. The light progressively reminds us that Jesus is the one who comes into the darkness of our world to bring renewal, life, and hope (Isaiah 42:6).

# The Word

## **Call to Worship—**

[Dave & Vivi Adams Family]

## 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.

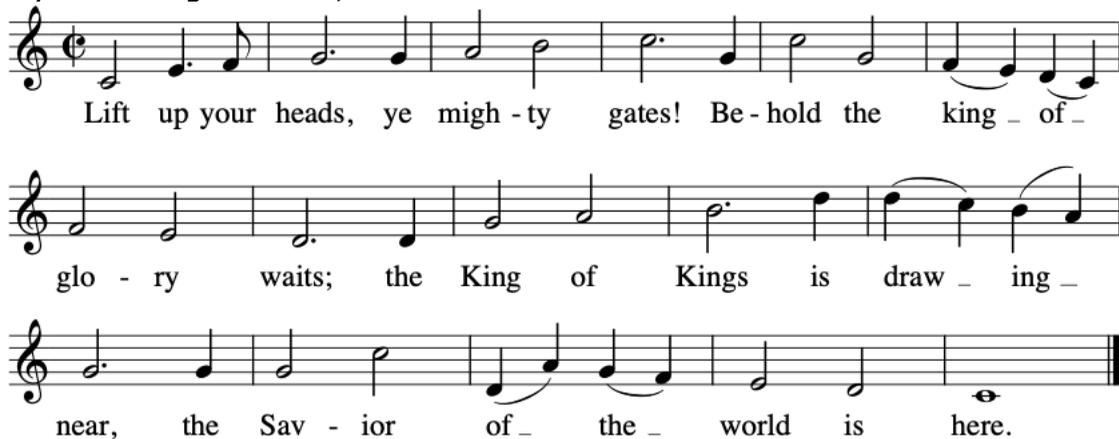
As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

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.

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lyrics: George Wiessel; Music: Thomas Williams



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The third staff concludes the melody for the third line. The lyrics are: "Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the king - of - glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is draw - ing - near, the Sav - ior of - the - world is here."

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and  
joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;  
Let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on, until our glorious goal is won;  
Eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

## 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.

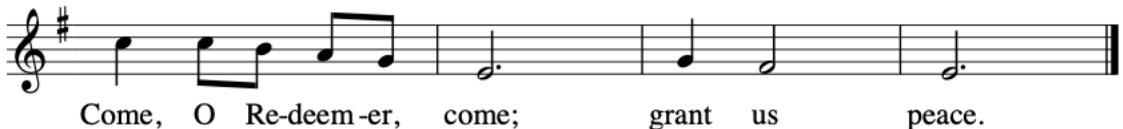
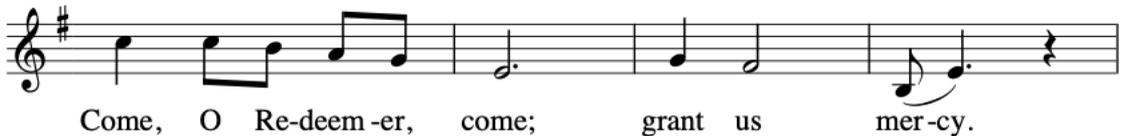
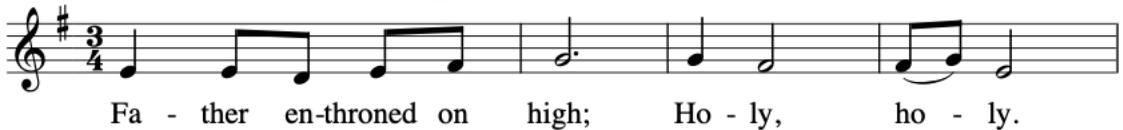
We confess our sins as a group and individually because we need to. We come to worship God even though we are morally broken, in certain hope that he is merciful to people like us, and able to change us by his grace.

## Confession of Sin

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

## Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega



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!**

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel



O come o come Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive



Is - ra - el. That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -



til the Son of God - ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse free,  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe for us the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. [Refrain]

## **The Prayers of the People**

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Brittany Smith]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

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.)

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.

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.**

## **New Testament Reading**

[Reader: Levi Grimes]

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 3:12-15

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

## 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.

## Old Testament Reading

### Exodus 13:17-18; 14:1-9

<sup>17</sup> When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." <sup>18</sup> But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

**14** Then the Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. <sup>3</sup> For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord." And they did so.

<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" <sup>6</sup> So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, <sup>7</sup> and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. <sup>9</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# 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 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.]

# 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. -'

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.

# 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

## 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.

## **No Monday Soccer in December**

**Men’s Book Group:** December 8th at 7:00pm on Matt McReynold’s patio ([4779 E. Avenida del Cazador](#)). We’ll be reading Jeremiah Borroughs’ book *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*.

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

Midtown Presbyterian Church  
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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# December Services Outside

## (Weather Permitting)

We are going to try meeting in the courtyard for our services in December to accommodate the spike in COVID cases. We can go inside if the weather doesn't cooperate.

We will need to make a couple of adjustments to make it work:

1. **Bring a chair from home** if you can—we can bring out folding chairs for those who prefer them or didn't bring one from home.
2. **Download the bulletin on your phone or tablet.** It gets dark during the service and phones will let us see the words. (No Words With Friends During the Sermons!)



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