



MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

### 12.23.2018

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

## Reflection

The whole point of the fairy tale of the gospel is, of course, that he is king in spite of everything. The frog turns out to be the prince, the ugly duckling the swan, the little gray man who asks for bread the great magician with the power of life and death in his hands, and though the steadfast tin soldier falls into the flames, his love turns out to be fireproof. There is no less danger and darkness in the gospel than there is in the Brothers Grimm, but beyond and above all there is the joy of it, this tale of a light breaking into the world that not even the darkness can overcome.... That is the fairy tale of the gospel with, of course, the one crucial difference from all other fairy tales, which is that the claim made for it is that it is true, that it not only happened once upon a time but has kept on happening ever since and is happening still.... Once upon a time is this time, now, and the ones who are to live happily ever after are.... all who labor and are heavy laden, the poor, naked wretches wheresoever they be.

--Frederick Buechner

# The Word

## **Call to Worship**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

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.

## Joy to the World

Music & Lyrics: Issac Watts



Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth re - cieve her King!



Let ev - 'ry - heart - pre - pare - Him - room - and



heav'n and na - ture - sing. and - heav'n and na - ture -



sing, and - heav'n - and heav'n - and na - ture sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## Prayer of Invocation

## Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

## Confession of Sin

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

## Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly. An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer; Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.  
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;  
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.  
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

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 1:11-12

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## Angels From the Realms of Glory

Music & Lyrics: James Montgomery & Henry Smart



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



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



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]

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 th'eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

## The Prayers of the People

(Please pray aloud together.)

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.)

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**

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:26-33

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

# God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen



God rest ye mer - ry gen - tle - men let no - thing you dis - may.



Re - mem - ber Christ the Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas day.



To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone as - tray. O \_



\_ ti - dings of com - fort and joy. Com - fort



and joy. O - ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. [Refrain]

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find. [Refrain]

# Old Testament Reading

## Ruth 4

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down. <sup>2</sup> And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you<sup>[a]</sup> will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth<sup>[b]</sup> the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” <sup>6</sup> Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

<sup>7</sup> Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. <sup>8</sup> So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. <sup>9</sup> Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” <sup>11</sup> Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, <sup>12</sup> and may your house be

like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, <sup>21</sup> Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, <sup>22</sup> Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

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.]

## 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.]

# All Praise To Thee Eternal Lord

Lyrics: Martin Luther; Music: American folk tune

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The melody consists of quarter and half notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into three lines of music, with measure numbers 7 and 12 indicated on the left side.

All praise to Thee, e-ter-nal Lord, clothed in a garb  
7  
of flesh and blood; choos-ing a man - ger for a  
12  
throne while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.

Once did the skies before Thee bow; A virgin's arms contain Thee now,  
While angels, who in Thee rejoice, Now listen for Thine infant voice.

A little Child, Thou art our Guest, That weary ones in Thee may rest;  
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth; That we may rise to heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night To make us children of the light;  
To make us, in the realms divine, Like Thine own angels round Thee shine.

All this for us Thy love hath done; By this to Thee our love is won;  
For this we tune our cheerful lays, And sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

# It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Lyrics: Edmund Sears; Music: Richard Willis



It came up-on \_ the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song \_of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps \_of gold: \_



"Peace on the earth good will to men from heav'n's \_ gra-cious King";



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## Benediction

# Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box in the back 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](http://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.

Women4Truth Conference: Aimee Byrd speaking at New Valley Church in Chandler, February 23rd. Sign up at [www.women4truth.com](http://www.women4truth.com)

Christmas Eve Service: We will meet here on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. for a Lessons and Carols service

Midtown Presbyterian Church

[www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org)

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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