



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
09.26.2021

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

The reality of exile and the growing tension of cultural dissonance leave Christians acutely vulnerable to two main temptations: assimilation and withdrawal. The fear and anger that animate these temptations are directed outward toward the world around us and, sometimes, also at one another as we feel threatened or critical when other Christians are tempted in different ways than we are.

--Paul S. Williams

We should remember that the devil is an even greater danger in the world's dining rooms than in the den of lions. When we hear the sounds of the king's meal being served, when we hear the glasses clink, we should be even more on our guard than when famished lions open their mouths.

--Ronald S. Wallace

Someday I'll be living in a big old city
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me
And all you're ever gonna be is mean
Why you gotta be so mean?

--Taylor Swift

The Word

Worship begins with God's call to us to worship him. As always, God initiates with us, such as we are, and invites us to be with him out of sheer mercy.

Call to Worship

Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

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

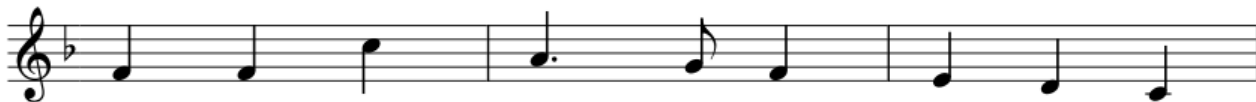
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lyrics: Joachim Neander; Music: 17th Century German Tune



1.Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty the king of cre - a - tion!
2.Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth.
3.Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.
4.Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea so
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here
All that hath life and breath, come now with



help and sal - - va - - - tion!
gent - - ly sus - - tain eth!
dai - - ly at - - tend thee.
prai - - ses be - - fore him.



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw
Hast thou not seen how all your long - ings hath
Pon - der a new men what the Al - migh - ty can
Let the a men sound from his peo - ple a -



near. Praise him in glad a - dor - a - tion!
been, gran - ted in what he or - dain - eth?
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
gain, Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

Prayer of Invocation

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.

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

Holy Father, forgive us.

Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable.

Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. 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 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Our consciences are unreliable and guilty, and can't be trusted to tell us the truth about God's free and happy forgiveness.

So God puts his authoritative word in the mouths of his appointed ministers to assure you that he forgives you in Jesus.

Abide With Me

Lyrics: Henry Lytle; Music: Justin Smith

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Abide With Me'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the next two lines. The third staff contains the next two lines. The fourth staff contains the final line of the hymn, ending with a double bar line.

A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven tide;
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a - bide.
When o - ther help - ers, fail and com - forts flee.
Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Nick Dunlap]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, especially where there is war, and for the unity of the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our world.)

For our nation, the President and all whom we have trusted with the leadership of our country, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our nation's leaders.)

For this gathering of the faithful at Midtown Presbyterian, as well as those gathering together in worship throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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.

And now hear us as we pray as our Savior 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 Peter 2:11-12

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:16

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Music & Lyrics: Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics: 'For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies, for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies'. The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.' The melody is simple and suitable for a hymn.

For the _ beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
for the _ love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies
Refrain
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and Moon and stars of light
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For each perfect gift of Thine to our world so freely given
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 1:1-21

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. ³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. ⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let

our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

We use the ancient creeds and confessions 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.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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.]

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 sings 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.

Jesus What a Friend For Sinners

Arrangement: Luke Smith

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It is in the key of B-flat major (one flat) and 9/8 time. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some triplet markings (indicated by a '2' over a group of notes). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Je - sus! What a friend for sin - ners! — Je - sus! Lo - ver
of my soul. — Friends may fail me foes as - sail me, — He my
Sav - ior makes me whole. — Hal - le - lu — jah! What a
Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! What a friend! — Sav - ing,
help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, — He is with me to the end. —

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He my strength my vict'ry wins.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll;
Even when my heart is breaking, He, my Comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus I do now receive him, More than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his and he is mine.

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.

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.

Prayer before the service: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Midtown Institute: Our last (review) meeting will be Sunday morning, October 10, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at the U of A Mall.

Women’s Bible Study: This Wednesday evening at 7:00 at the Garland’s (1324 N Norton Ave). Yunuen Jankowski will be leading a discussion of Larry Crabb’s book Shattered Dreams.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

RUF Front Porch Bible Study: Tuesdays @8:00pm at Koffler 216.

Midtown Hikes: The next one will be on the morning of 10/2 at Madera Canyon. We’ll leave from the Vineyard at 7am. See the church email or contact J.D. Doak (530-601-1960) for details, waiver, etc.

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

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