



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10.08.2023

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 (**Age 0-3 only today**). You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

The atheism of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud can be called the atheism of suspicion in contrast to evidential atheism. For while the latter focuses on the truth of religious beliefs, the former inquires into their function. It asks, in other words, what motives lead to belief and what practices are compatible with and authorized by religious beliefs. The primary response of Christian philosophers should not be to refute these analyses, since they are all too often true and, moreover, very much of the same sort as found in the religion critique of Jesus and the prophets. Rather, our primary response should be to show the Christian community, including ourselves, how even the truth can become an instrument of self-interest. In this way the atheism of suspicion can provide helpful conceptual tools for personal and corporate self-examination.

--Merold Westphal

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

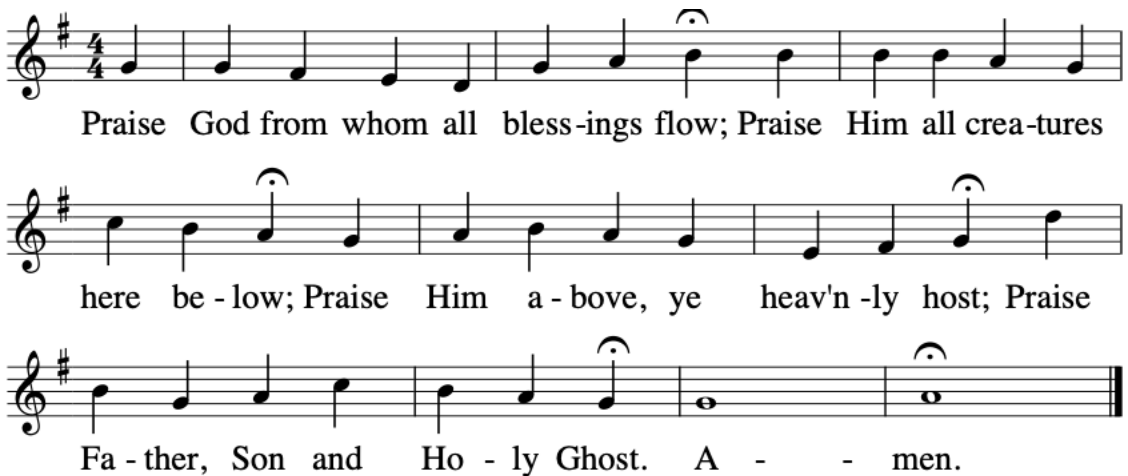
Psalm 62:5-8

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth

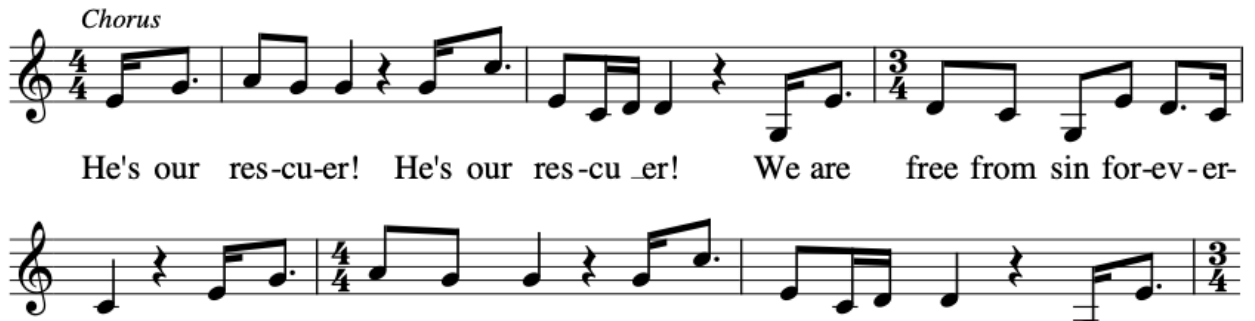


Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

Rescuer (Good News)


Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

Chorus



He's our res-cu-er! He's our res-cu_er! We are free from sin for-ev-er-
more. Oh how sweet the sound. Oh how grace a - bounds, We will

Verse



praise the Lord, our res-cu-er! There is good news for the cap-tive;
good news for the shamed. There is good news for the one who walked a -
way. There is good news for the doubt-er; the one re-li-gion failed, for the
good Lord has come to seek and save. _ *to Chorus*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor;
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.
He is pasture for the weary; rest for those who strive,
For the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

Bridge

to Chorus So come and be chain - less. Come and be
fear - less. Come to the foot of Cal - va -
ry. There is re - demp - tion, for ev - 'ry af -
flic - tion. Here at the foot of Cal - va - ry.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Acts 3:18-19

But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.

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

[Pray aloud together]

Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I thank you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you.

[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

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lyrics: Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music: Christopher Miner

The musical score is written on four staves in 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day".

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I - fain would take my stand; the
sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with - in a wear - y land; a
home with - in a wild - er - ness, a rest up - on the way from the
burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess;
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Matt McReynolds]

[Pray the bold portions 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.

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Paige Jackson]

Jeremiah 7:1-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:34-40

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Crown Him

Music: Benji Pocta; Lyrics: Thomas Kelly

Look ye saints, _ the sight is glo - rious: see the ex - alt-ed Sav-ior now;
_ From the fight _ re-turned vic-to - rious, ev-ery knee to him shall
bow; Crown him, crown him, _ crowns be - come the Vic-tor's _ brow. _

Crown the Savior! Saints adore him; Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
In the seat of power enthrone him, While the vault of heaven rings;
Crown him, crown him, Crown the Savior; King of Kings.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
Hark, those loud triumphant chords;
Jesus takes the highest station; O what joy the sight affords;
Crown him, crown him, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

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.]

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. *Bridge* I'm hold - ing
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

How Long?

Music & Lyrics: Isaac Wardell



1. How long? Will you turn your face a-way?
2. How long 'til your child- ren find their rest?



How long? Do you hear us when we pray?
How long 'til you draw them to your breast?



On and on, still we walk this pil - - grim way. How long?
We go on, hold- ing to your pro - - mi - ses. How long?



'Til you wipe a-way the tears from eve - ry eye?



'Til we see our home de - scend - ing from the sky?



Do we wait in vain? Je- sus give us hope a- gain!

How long 'til your word will still the storm?
How long 'til you bare your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til you snatch us from the thorns. How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on, great that cloud of witnesses! How long? [Chorus]
Amen, Jesus Come!

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.

Men's Book Group: October 7/10 @ 7pm @ the McReynold's (1241 E Sobre Lomas) book is The Winter Queen by Boris Akunin.

Nursery Help: We need a few more volunteers for the nursery/child care ministry to our little ones. If a few more will help out the intervals will be longer and make things easier for us all. Contact Sami Skaare if you can help: (602) 826-4164, sbbyker@gmail.com.

Church Potluck: Our next potluck is October 22. Please bring your favorite dishes to share! Sign up sheet is at this link—>



Women's Bible Study: Thursday, 10/12, 7pm @ Cara Scott's home (2839 E Vespers Pl). Hannah Johnson has details.