



MIDTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

### 07.25.2021

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**

Crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and hear the lamentation of the women!

—Conan the Barbarian

The church right from the start has tended to take its cues from the society around it and use aspects of the faith as weapons in the ongoing implicit social or cultural contests.

—Tom Wright

Authority intoxicates,  
And makes mere sots of magistrates;  
The fumes of it invade the brain,  
And make men giddy, proud, and vain.

—Samuel Butler

# 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

Revelation 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

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.

# Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. 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 final line of the hymn, ending with a double bar line.

Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;  
pros-trate ly-ing, suf-fring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.  
Vic-t'ry gain-ing, life ob - tain -ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;  
He is all our righteousness;  
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.  
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;  
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;  
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.  
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever  
Unto God the Father sing;  
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.  
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

## Prayer of Invocation

## **Call to Confession of Sin**

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

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.]

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know that you care for us and cherish us. We know that you empower us and give us hope. We know that you provide us with direction, comfort, and peace.**

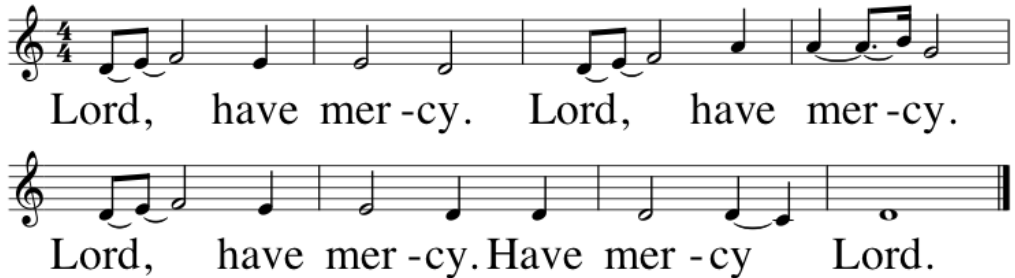
**We confess that we have not loved you as you have asked us to love. We take you for granted and fail to acknowledge your good gifts. We allow the opinions of others to drive us even to the point of disobedience. We do not want others to know that we follow you. We look to the wisdom of world to guide as opposed to your Word.**

**We confess our sin with the bold confidence that you will continue to love us. You will not reject. You will not abandon. You will forgive.**

[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.

Our consciences are weak 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.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

John 12:46-47

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

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 image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, written in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. 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 Nick Dunlap]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you commanded the apostles to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every person.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a ready will to obey your word.

**Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.**

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

**Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.**

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

**May our children follow you all of their lives.**

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.

**Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.**

(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

O God, everlasting Father, your kingdom comes by your power.  
**We pray that you would bring your kingdom to us.**  
**We pray that you would bring your kingdom through us.**

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples to pray, 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: Francis Willberg]

Philippians 2:5-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 20:20-28

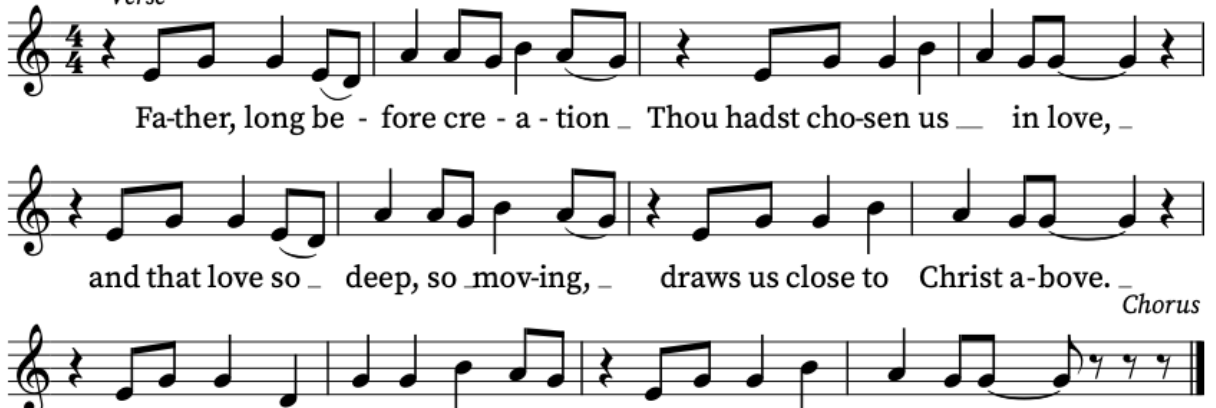
Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# Father Long Before Creation


Music: Andrew Osenga; Lyrics: Chinese Hymn

*Verse*



Fa-ther, long be - fore cre - a - tion \_ Thou hadst cho-sen us \_ in love, \_  
and that love so \_ deep, so mov-ing, \_ draws us close to Christ a-bove. \_

*Chorus*



Still it keeps us, still it keeps us \_ firm-ly fixed in Christ a-lone. \_

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and his covenant through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee we will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb;  
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb.

## Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 8:2-9

<sup>2</sup> I say: Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him. <sup>3</sup> Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?" <sup>5</sup> Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. <sup>6</sup> For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him. <sup>7</sup> For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? <sup>8</sup> No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. <sup>9</sup> All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.

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.]

## **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.]

# 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?



*Chorus*

'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!



# This Is My Father's World

Music & Lyrics: Maltbie D. Babcock



This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears, all  
na-ture sings, and round me rings, the mu-sic of the spheres. This  
is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought of  
rocks and trees and skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.

This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and Heav'n be one.

## 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.

**Prayer before the service:** We have a few people meet to pray silently for the worship service and for the mission of the church from 4:30-4:45 in the youth room off of the playground behind the church. Everyone is welcome to join in.

**Midtown Institute:** Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, August 8th, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).



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

Midtown Presbyterian Church  
[www.mpctucson.org](http://www.mpctucson.org)  
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717  
678.849.7918

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