



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

10.24.2021

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**

Over the years, I also came to realize that adversity did not merely lead people to believe in God's existence. It pulled those who already believed into a deeper experience of God's reality, love, and grace. One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of affliction. As C. S. Lewis famously put it, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain." Believers understand many doctrinal truths in the mind, but those truths seldom make the journey down into the heart except through disappointment, failure, and loss. As a man who seemed about to lose both his career and his family once said to me, "I always knew, in principle, that Jesus is all you need to get through. But you don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."

—Tim Keller

# 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

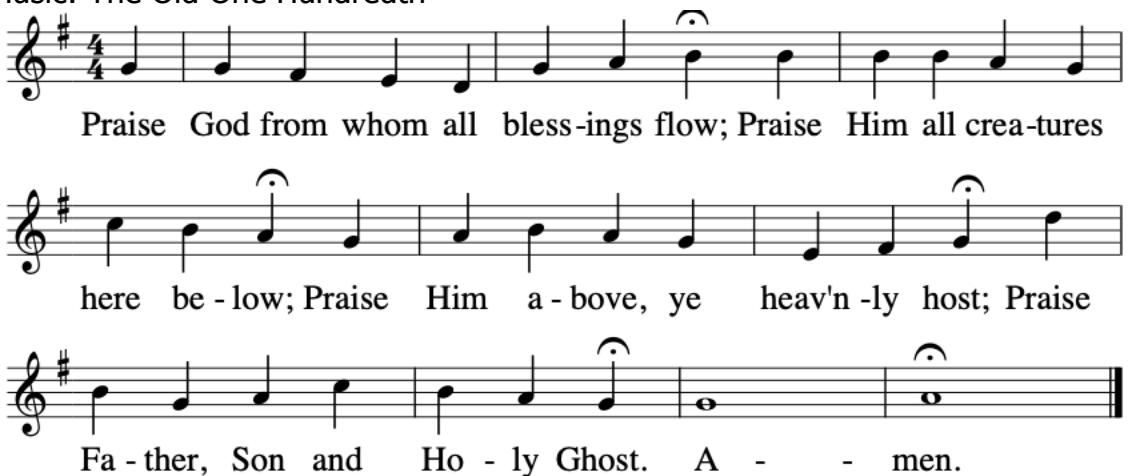
Psalm 62:5-8

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

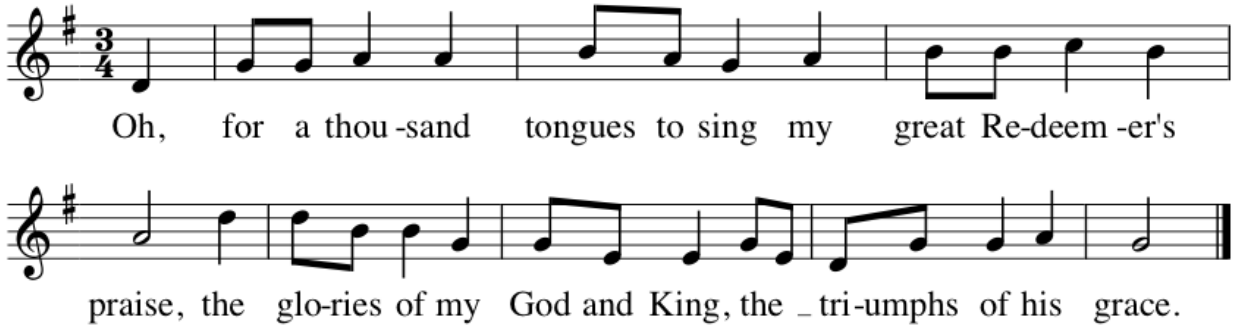
Music: The Old One Hundredth



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.

# O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's  
praise, the glo-ries of my God and King, the - tri-umphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap,  
ye lame, for joy

## Prayer of Invocation

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

## **Call to Confession of Sin**

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## **Confession of Sin**

[Please pray aloud together]

**Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son.**

**But we confess today that we often live like slaves.**

**Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt.**

**Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts.**

**Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains.**

**Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas.**

**Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us.**

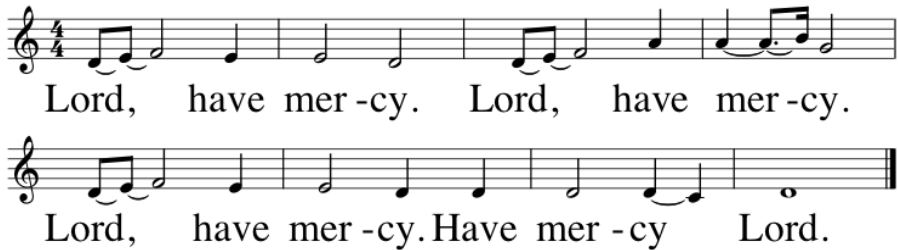
**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

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.

# Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.  
Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

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.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

# Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Lyrics: John Newton; Music: Wedell Kimbrough

4 1. Pen-sive doubt-ing fear-ful heart, hear what Christ the Sav-ior \_

8 says; Ev-'ry word should joy im-part, change thy mourn-ing in-to

12 praise. Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee, may He help thee \_ to be \_

14 lieve; Then thou pre-sent-ly will

see, thou hast lit-tle cause to \_ grieve.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with line numbers 4, 8, 12, and 14 indicating the start of each line of text. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed; All thy sorrows soon shall end,  
I, who heaven and earth have framed,  
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;  
I the High and Holy One, Israel's God, by all adored,  
As thy Savior will be known, Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew, And thy heart was filled with pain;  
But my mercies I'll renew; Thou shall soon rejoice again;  
Though I seem to hide my face, Very soon my wrath shall cease;  
'Tis but for a moment's space, Ending in eternal peace.



Though afflicted, tempest tossed, Comfortless awhile thou art,  
Do not think thou can be lost, Thou art graven on my heart;  
All thy wastes I will repair; Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;  
And in thee it shall appear, What the God of love can do.

## **The Prayers of the People**

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amid the conflicts of this passing world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

From pride, selfishness, greed and anger; from passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ as well as war among nations:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for peace (silence). Amen.

As you have blessed our nation so richly, we pray for the President and all in authority over us, that they would lead with wisdom and truth:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for those who lead (silence). Amen.

[Led by Nick Davis]

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 all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for all who struggle with the gospel (silence). Amen.

For all who suffer: the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

**Save and help us, O Lord.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

**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 4:12-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 15:20-27

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Lyrics: William Williams; Music: Jeremy Casella

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'. It consists of five staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim'. The second staff continues: 'through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art'. The third staff: 'might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of'. The fourth staff: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of'. The fifth staff: 'hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.' The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties.

Guide me O, Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim  
through this bar - ren - land. I am - weak, but Thou art  
might - y; Hold me with Thy power - ful - hand. Bread of  
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more. Bread of  
hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.  
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

ENDING

Land me

safe on Ca-naan's side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx -

- ious fears. Land me safe on Ca - naan's -

side. Bid my anx - ious fears. Bid my anx - ious fears, good-bye.

## Old Testament Reading

### Daniel 3:19-30

**19** Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. **20** And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. **21** Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. **22** Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **23** And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

**24** Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." **25** He

answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

<sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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.**

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.

## 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.]

# Satan, Your Kingdom Must Come Down

Traditional Spiritual

The image shows a musical score for a traditional spiritual. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first two staves are identical and contain the lyrics "Sa - tan, your king - dom must come down." The third staff contains the lyrics "I heard the voice of Je - - - sus say," with a long note for "Je" and a dotted note for "sus". The fourth staff contains the lyrics "Sa - tan your king - dom must come down." and ends with a double bar line.

Sa - tan, your king - dom must come down.

Sa - tan, your king - dom must come down.

I heard the voice of Je - - - sus say,

"Sa - tan your king - dom must come down."

I'm gonna pray until they tear your kingdom down;  
Pray 'til they tear your kingdom down.  
I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Satan your kingdom must come down."

They'll shout until they tear your kingdom down;  
Shout 'til they tear your kingdom down.  
I heard the voice of Jesus cry,  
"Satan your kingdom must come down."



# Rivers of Babylon

Lyrics & Music: Brent Dowe & Trevor McNaughton

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three sections: a main body, a chorus, and a bridge. The main body consists of two lines of music. The chorus consists of two lines of music. The bridge consists of two lines of music. The lyrics are: 'By the ri-vers of Bab - y - lon \_ where we sat down and there we wept when we re-mem-bered Zi - on \_ O for the wick-ed car-ried us a-way, in cap-tiv-ity re - qui-red from us a song. How can we sing Je - hovah's song in a strange land? So let the words of our mouth and the med-i - ta-tions of our hearts be ac - cept - ab - le in thy sight; here, to - night.'

By the ri-vers of Bab - y - lon \_ where we sat down  
and there we wept when we re-mem-bered Zi - on \_

*Chorus*  
O for the wick-ed car-ried us a-way, in cap-tiv-ity re - qui-red from us a  
song. How can we sing Je - hovah's song in a strange land?

*Bridge*  
So let the words of our mouth and the med-i - ta-tions of our  
hearts be ac - cept - ab - le in thy sight; here, to - night.

## 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.

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

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

**Nursery Volunteer Help Needed:** Our nursery is growing and we need a few more hands on deck. If you are interested/willing please tell Olivia Stowe or Josiah Howard. And if they buttonhole you about doing it, give them a chance!

**Christmas Choir:** If you have experience in four-part harmony choir singing (or a desire to learn!), you are invited to participate in a special Christmas choir that will lead the congregation in a few carols this Advent season. Let Sarah Lewis ([sarahgrimeslewis@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgrimeslewis@gmail.com)) know if you are interested and she will contact you with practice info.

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

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