



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Reformation Sunday

10.29.2023

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

Reflection

Few are able to suppress in themselves a secret satisfaction at the misfortune of their friends.

— François La Rochefoucauld

Tonight at an inn somewhere in this city stands a giggling child who can put on paper, with actually setting down his billiard cue, casual notes which turn my most considered ones into lifeless scratches.

—Antonio Salieri (of Mozart)

Of all the deadly sins, only envy is no fun at all.

—Joseph Epstein

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

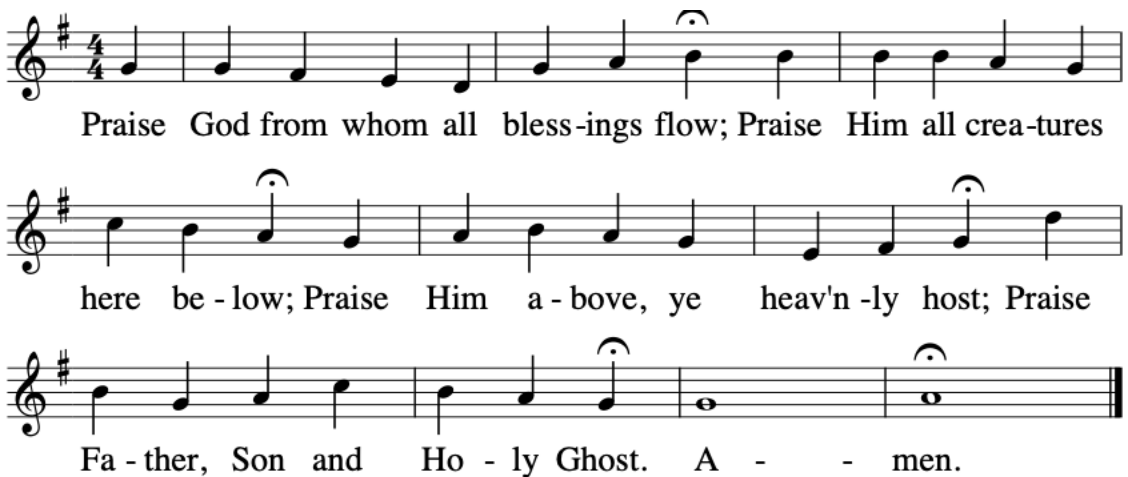
Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

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 blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Lyrics & Music: Martin Luther



A migh-ty for-tress is our God, a bul-wark ne-ver fail — ing;



Our help-er He a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail — ing; For



still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are



great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e — qual.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed, his truth to triumph through us
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Hosea 6:1

"Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin.

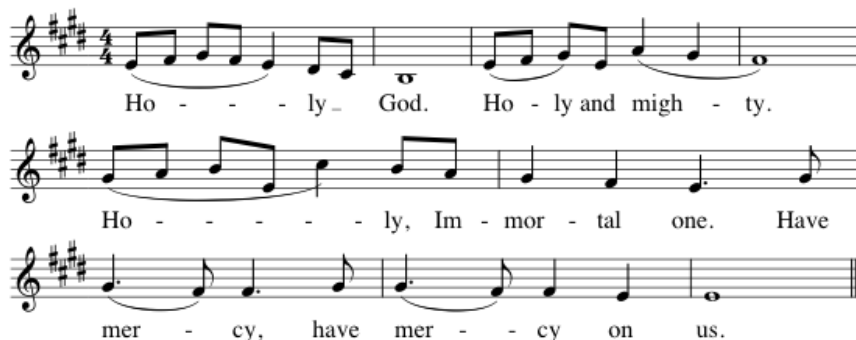
Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law.

Help us to change our way of life, so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and migh - ty.
Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have
mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hosea 11:8-9

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

In Christ Alone

3 In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my
6 light, my strength, my song; This cor - ner - stone, this sol-id
9 ground, firm through the fier-cest drought and storm. What heights of
12 love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
14 cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature. The score consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 3, 6, 9, 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.

Lyrics & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death! This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal
His glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for Your church.

Bless all the ministers of Your word

and sacraments and unite all Christians

in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus

Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for the Church.). Amen.

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.

Lord God of our fathers,
who has promised to take care of our every need,

Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do Your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for our world.). Amen.

Most merciful Father,
comfort all who believe the good news of Your grace.

We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to Your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pray silently for all who suffer.). Amen.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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.**

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Nikki Smith]

1 Samuel 18:6-9

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.**

How Firm A Foundation

Music & Lyrics: Traditional

How firm a found-a - ion, ye saints of the Lord, is
laid for your faith in his ex - cell-ent word! What
more can he say than to you, he has said, to
you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled.

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4c

Love does not envy....

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.

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 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.]

We Labor Unto Glory

Music & Lyrics: Craig Harris, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell



1. My God, my God, where - e'er I go, glo - ry.
2. The sun it shines and then goes down, glo - ry.
3. My heart my hands they're king-dom bound, glo - ry. Where



Where I reap and where I sow, glo - - ry.
Rain, it pours and beats the ground, glo - - ry.
thorns no long - er curse the ground, glo - - ry.



When my hands, they grip the thorn glo - - ry.
Dust, it blows and ends my days, glo - - ry.
Trim the wick and light the flame, glo - - ry. My



In the still and in the storm, glo - ry. glo - ry.
Hearts they burn be - neath your gaze, glo - ry. glo - ry.
work it will not be in vain, glo - ry. glo - ry.

REFRAIN



Oh, we la - bor un - to glo - ry 'til hea - ven and earth are



one. Oh, we la - bor un - to glo - ry, un - til God's king - dom comes.

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Lyrics: Edward Mole; Music: William B. Bradbury

My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly lean on
Je-sus' name. On Christ the sol - id rock I stand; all oth - er ground
is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the 'whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

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.

Church Prayer Meeting. Sunday, November 12th, at 10:30 am at the Adams' home (4660 N Paseo Aquimuri). Come pray for our church and community. (You won't be put on the spot to pray out loud if you don't want to.)

Shower for Stephanie Barrett: Come celebrate Stephanie and her upcoming wedding at the Esswein house on Sunday November 5th at 9am. Annalyse Rash has more details. All Midtown women are welcome!

November Combined Book Group: November 14th at the McReynolds' home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). Reading The Phantom of the Opera.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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