

MIDTOWN Presbyterian Church

Evening Worship

Twenty first Sunday After Pentecost 10.30.2022

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

Moralism hands starving people a cookbook.

--Matt Smethurst

Fascism holds a mirror in front of us that shows us a picture far more beautiful than what is real. Data controllers manipulate our feelings via fear and flattery. Recognizing our own weaknesses is a strong defense against manipulative flattery.

-- Yuval Noah Harari

The Word

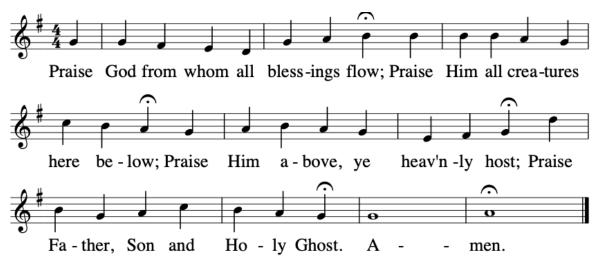
Call to Worship

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. 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.

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 to the Lord, the Almighty

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



Prayer of Invocation

Confession of Sin

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



To wash away the crimson stain, Grace, grace alone availeth; Our works, alas! Are all in vain; In much the best life faileth; No man can glory in Thy sight, All must alike confess Thy might, And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy) And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Minister:May the peace of Christ be with you!All:And also with you!

Psalm 130 (Continued)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit; On Him my soul shall rest, His word upholds my fainting spirit; His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support; I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience) 2x

What though I wait the live-long night, and 'til the dawn appeareth, My heart still trusteth in His might; it doubteth not nor feareth; Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed; And wait 'til God appeareth (Wait 'til God appeareth) 2x

Though great our sins and sore our woes His grace much more aboundeth;

His helping love no limit knows, our upmost need it soundeth. Our Shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow) 2x

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.

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.

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.

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, 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: Annalyse Rash]

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 John 4:7-12 Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

In Christ Alone

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.

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Minister:	The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
People:	Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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.

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: All:	Lift up your hearts. 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.

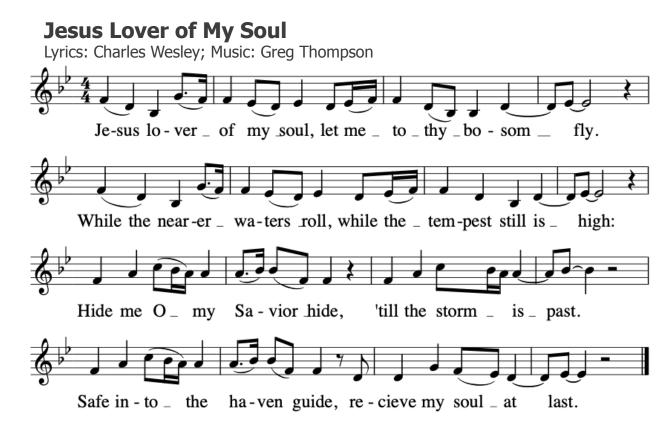
The Words of Institution

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

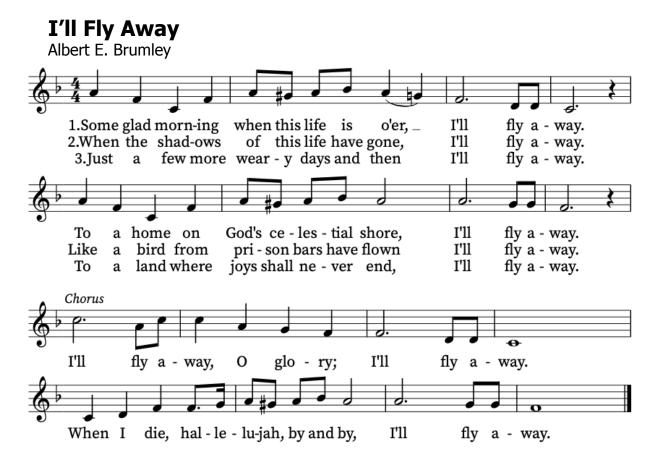
[As you are ready please come forward down the center aisle.. Take bread and eat it, then take a cup and drink. If you prefer grape juice and/or a gluten free wafer, they are available on the middle table. Please return down the outside aisles.]



Other refuge have I none, I helpless, hang on thee; Leave, oh leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on thee is stayed, all help from Thee I bring; Cover my defenseless head in the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want, more than all in thee I find; Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness; False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin; Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, let me take of thee; Spring thou up within my heart; for all eternity.



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 (<u>www.mpctucson.org/donate</u>). ----->>>



Email List: We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you. You can email Charles (<u>charles@mpctucson.org</u>) to get on the list.

Women's Fall Bible Study: On Seeing Jesus in the Prophets, based on Nancy Guthrie's book. Wednesday nights at 7:00 at Shelly Gauger's home (<u>525 S 4th</u> <u>Ave</u>).

Church Potluck: Mark your calendars! Our next church potluck will be held on November 6 after church. We will email around a sign up sheet.

Hootenanny: 11/4 at Robert Jentoft's home @ 7pm. Bring some songs to share and a snack or two.

Intro to Midtown Class: Sunday morning, 11/20. This is for people interested in joining Midtown or just finding out more about the church. There is a booklet to read in advance. Please let Charles know if you are interested. Time and place info coming soon.

Men's & Women's Book Group: Combined book groups this month, reading Mary Shelley''s <u>Frankenstein</u>. Tuesday, November 8th @ 7:00 at the McReynold's (1241 E Sobre Lomas). Dana is making us dessert!

Pastor: Charles Garland Music Director: Sarah Lewis Nursery Director: Sami Byker Church Planting Resident: Nick Davis RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein

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