



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

First Sunday in Lent

02.21.2021

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 aren't having a nursery for a couple of more weeks. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you, though.

Reflection

I lust after recognition, I am desperate to win all the little merit badges and trinkets of my profession, and I am of less real use in this world than any good cleaning lady.

—Garrison Keillor

Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever.

—Napoleon Bonaparte

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:3-5

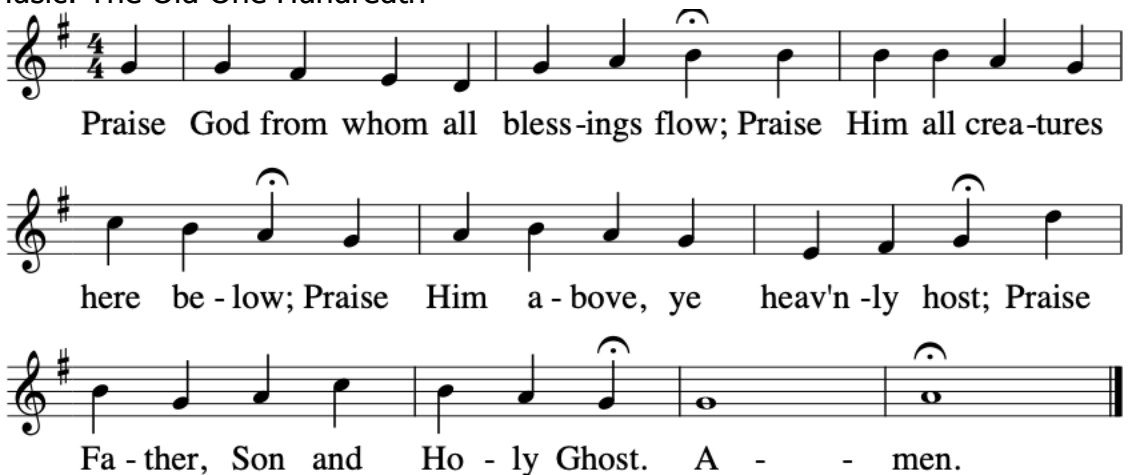
Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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

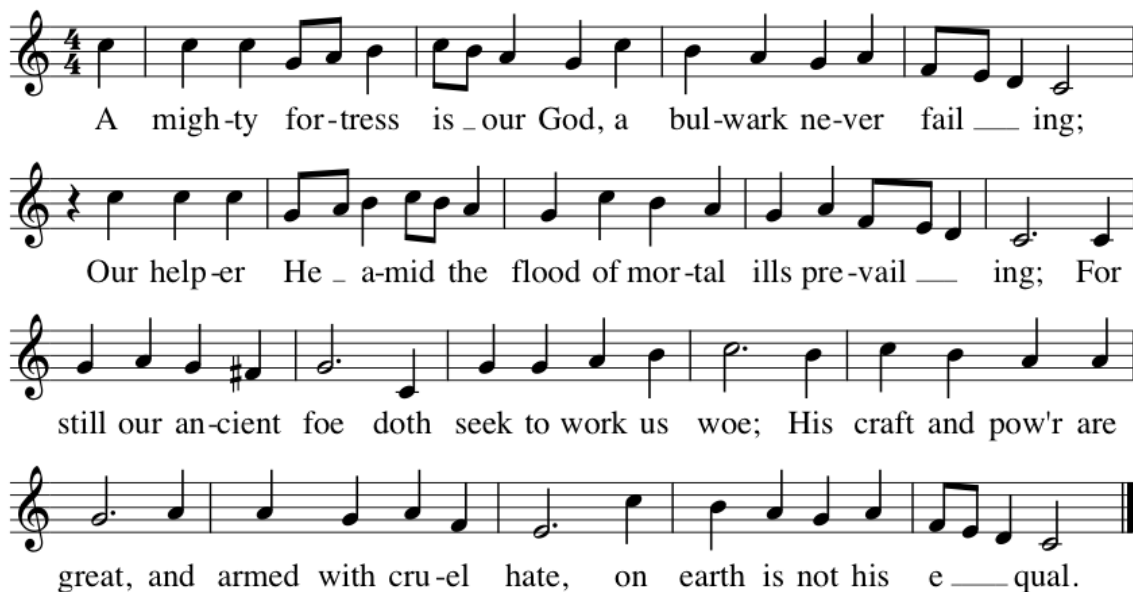
Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise 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.

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

1 John 3:3

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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.]

Holy Father, forgive us.

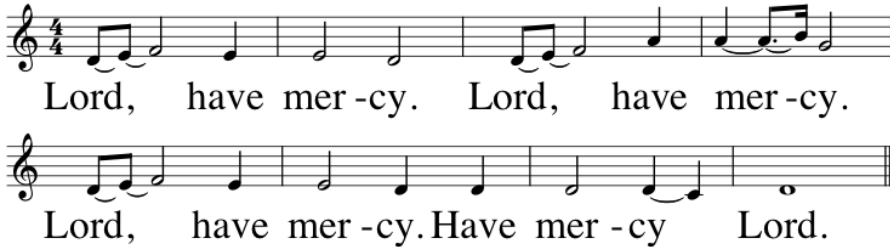
Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable.

Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



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

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

It Is Well With My Soul

Lyrics: Henry Lyte; Music: Bill Moore



When peace like a ri - ver at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
sea bil - lows roll; What - e - ver my lot, thou hast taught me to
say, it is well, it is well, with my soul! It is well,
with my soul, it is well, it is well, with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All the ends of the earth

Have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,

Born in a stable at Bethlehem:

May Your church be a sign of hope and glory.

Lord, have mercy

(Please pray silently for the church). Amen.

O Christ, truly risen from the dead,

Our Alpha and Omega:

May the whole world live in peace and justice, according to Your will.

Lord, have mercy

(Please pray silently for our world and those who lead). Amen.

O Christ, truly God and truly human,

Born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:

Fulfill the needs and desires of those who are sick or sorrow.

Lord, have mercy

(Please pray silently for those who suffer). Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the coming of Your light into our world has

brightened weary hearts with peace. Hear us now as we pray in the words you taught us:

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.

**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: Yunuen Jankowski]

1 Corinthians 4:7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 3:25-30

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Music & Lyrics: Robert Robinson

5 Come, thou fount of ev'-ry bles-sing, tune my heart to sing thy
9 grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est
12 praise. Teach me _ some me - lo-dious - son _ net sung by _
15 fla - ming toun- ges a - bove. Praise the mount, I'm fixed up -
pon it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 4:28-37

²⁸ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, ³² and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." ³³ Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

and he does according to his will among the host of heaven

and among the inhabitants of the earth;

and none can stay his hand

or say to him, "What have you done?"

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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.

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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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 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.]

What Wondrous Love is This

Music & Lyrics: American Folk Hymn



What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
soul! What won-dous love is this, O my soul. — What
won-dous love is this that caused the Lord — of bliss to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.

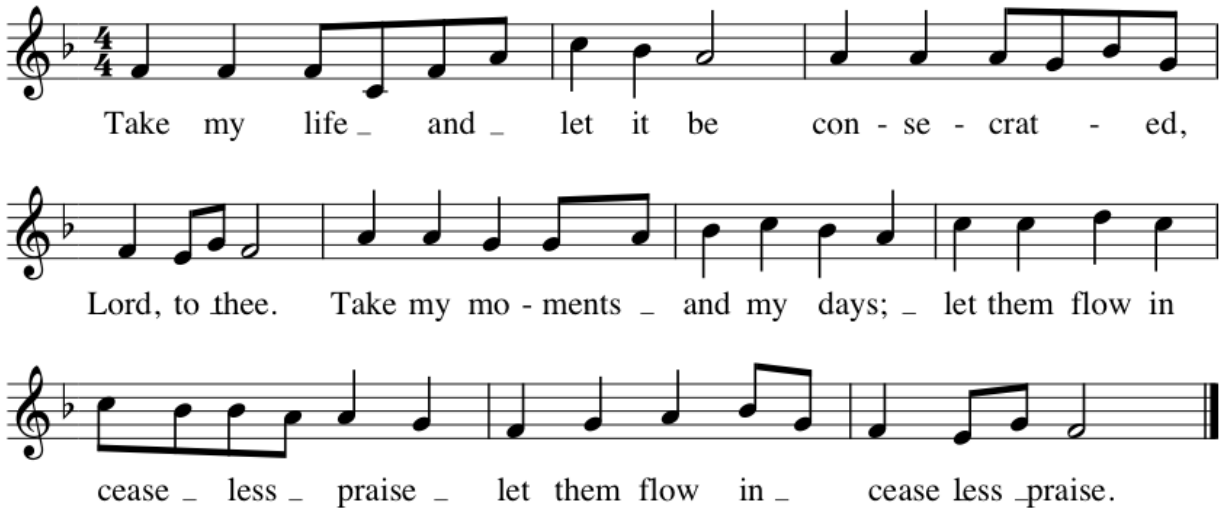
When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

Take My Life And Let It Be

Lyrics & Music: Frances Havergal



Take my life _ and _ let it be con - se - crat - ed,
Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments _ and my days; _ let them flow in
cease _ less _ praise _ let them flow in _ cease less _praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord,
I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
Ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction

As God has the first word in our worship service, he also has the last. The Benediction is given so you will leave church with the words of God's grace and favor ringing in your ears, and know how deeply he loves you.

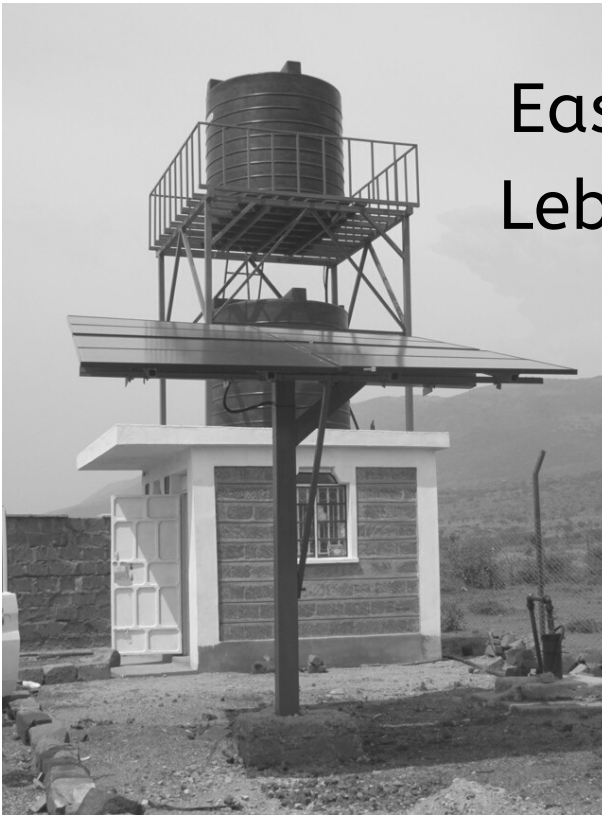
Easter Offering Leboo Borehole

We want to raise
\$25,000 to dig a
bore hole for
Leboo, Kenya

For the Children's Sake has been
given five acres of land on which
to build a school and church, but
first needs a supply of clean
water so the Massai children can
live there year round.

A bore hole facilitates many other
relief needs, especially for girls in
this area. With clean water they can
use washable feminine hygiene
products, go to school, more easily
avoid genital mutilation, and
connect to the good news of Jesus.

Contribute by writing a check to
Midtown Presbyterian Church (noting
the Borehole Project) or by giving
online at
www.mpctucson.org/donate.



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.

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.

Midtown Institute: Starting in mid-March we are going to hold a training class for people interested in taking on more leadership in our church, whether as a ministry team leader, small group leader, elder or deacon, or if you just want to be better prepared to serve Christ in your home and work. The class will cover our church’s beliefs, perspectives on ministry, personal character and spiritual life. We will meet 20 times during the year and you’ll need to do a good bit of reading/preparation. We will set the meeting days/times once we have a list of participants. Please let Charles know if you want to be a part.

Women’s Bible Study: will resume in March.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

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

Midtown Presbyterian Church
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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