



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Distancing & Safety Plan

So we can more safely meet together for worship we ask you to help us observe the following:

1. Leave every other pew open.
2. No nursery yet (the room is being renovated).
3. Wear masks so we can sing.
4. Communion will involve coming forward without crowding, and picking up a cup and wafer from the altar rail in front of the pulpit. The separate table of cups will have grape juice if you prefer that. The wafers are gluten free. Come forward up the center aisle and go back to your pew down the north aisle.
5. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
6. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

09.13.2020

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.

Our nursery for our little ones isn't open yet, post-quarantine, but there is a cry room in the back, and some room in the foyer if they need a little space.

Reflection

But when secular movements ape religion, they create something narrower than the original. By putting huge emphasis on one form of immorality, the BLM movement creates a dubious division between the pure and the impure. It implies that people who are free of racism, either because they are its victims or because they ardently side with its victims, are morally superior in a general way. This is where old-fashioned religion is crucially wiser: it says that we are all sinners, even if we zealously uphold this or that aspect of morality. Even if we do no discernible outward harm, we are prone to wrongdoing, we gravitate to it. Our hearts are not pure. In theory at least, this realism dampens the zeal of religious moralists: it reminds them that they share the same sort of impulses that result in the immorality they condemn in others.

—Theo Hobson

The Word

Call to Worship

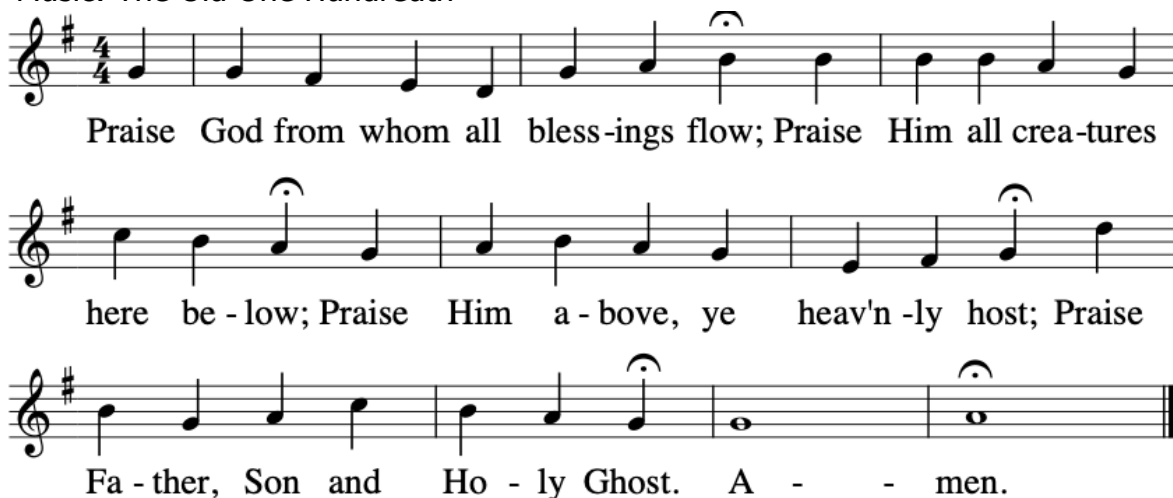
Psalm 107:1-3

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

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.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth

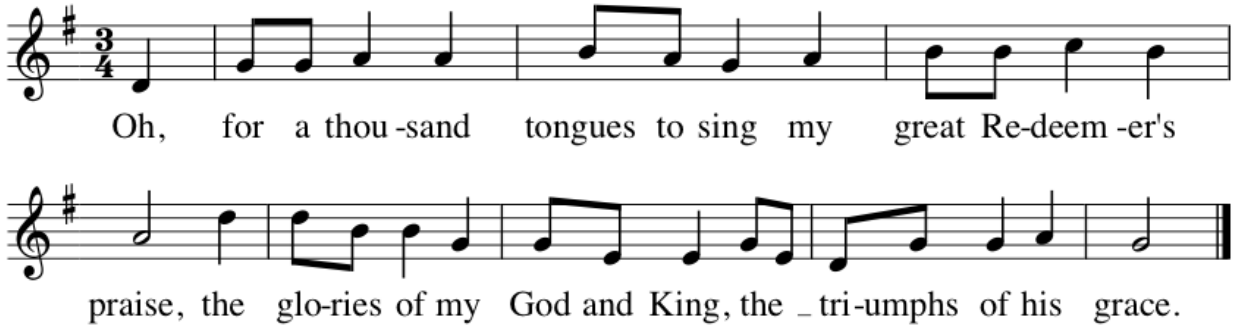


Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

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.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "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." The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the remaining six measures, ending with a double bar line.

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

Call to Confession of Sin

Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

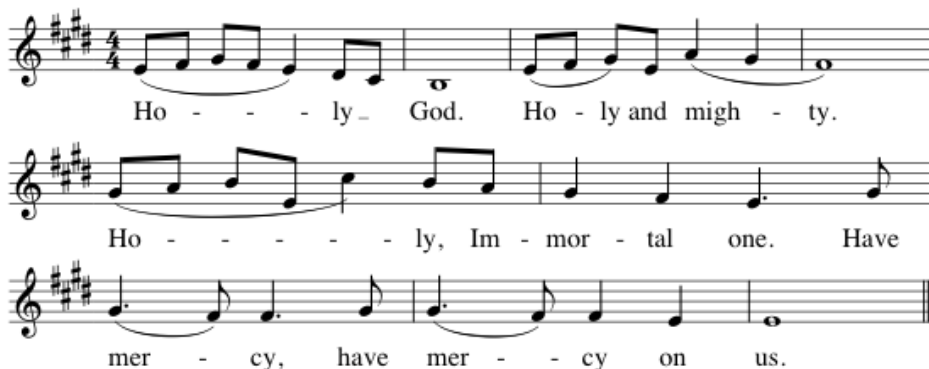
[Pray aloud together]

Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls.
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

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

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!

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

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic, and
apostolic Church,

That we all may be one.

(Please pray silently for the unity of the church.)

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.

We pray for all who lead and guide your church

That they may be faithful and diligent servants of you.

(Please pray silently for all who lead the church.)

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

(Please pray silently for the nations of the world.)

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

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake

That we may know the joy of living for you.

(Please pray silently that we would follow God in our lives.)

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble

That they may be delivered from their distress.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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.**

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. [Chorus]

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. [Chorus]

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 e
To our God and to the Lamb. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

Romans 9:30-10:14

³⁰ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteous-ness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

10 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteous-ness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified,

and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

¹⁹ But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."

²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Sermons are God's appointed means to communicate his Good News to a particular group of people in a particular local context. Sermons, by design, aren't impressive, so that God will get credit when he uses them in your life, rather than the preacher.

The Table

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. Amen.**

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 cups on the taller, white table have wine and the ones on the wooden table have grape juice.]

***See the front of the bulletin for the Covid-19
Communion plan!**

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down;
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he;
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he. [Chorus]
The table now is spread, the table now is spread;
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed,
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near. [Chorus & Repeat First Verse]

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The second staff continues: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter). The third staff continues: C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (quarter). The fourth staff continues: B1 (quarter), A1 (quarter), G1 (quarter), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (quarter), B1 (quarter). The lyrics are: "O love that will not let me go I rest my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er ful - ler be."

O love that will not let me go I rest
my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back
the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths
its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Benediction

Tell Charles if you are interested in:

Joining Midtown

If you are interested in coming to an informational class to learn about our church and what membership entails. (Coming to the class doesn't obligate you to join!)

Joining a Small Group

We have a couple of small groups meeting to socialize, pray together and study the Scriptures. We will start more groups as we have need.

Mentoring younger Christians and brand new Christians

Shaping our Church's mercy ministry in Tucson

Giving a gift of stocks/securities to the church or including Midtown in your will

Silent Prayer for before the Worship Service

Being an Emergency Bulletin Preparer (using Pages for Mac)

Being a backup videographer for the worship services

Sharing any brilliant ideas for our church's mission in Tucson

charles@mpctucson.org

678.849.7918

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box at the back of the sanctuary that you can use as you enter or leave. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you. You can also email Charles (charles@mpctucson.org) to get on the list.

Intro to Midtown Class Sunday Morning, October 5th. This is a class for people interested in joining Midtown or just finding out more about us. There is a booklet to read through beforehand, and we'll have the class on 10/5 to discuss questions and ideas. Let Charles know if you are interested so he can get the booklet to you in advance. Meeting place is TBD.

Saturday Morning Homeless Ministry: If you're interested in helping with some relief ministry for homeless people in Midtown, contact Tim and Kim Davis and they will help you get started. (tdavisua74@gmail.com or kimdi74@gmail.com)

Monday Soccer in the Mall: Monday evenings at 5:30 a group is meeting on the U of A mall to play soccer. Everyone is welcome.

Womens Bible Study: resumes Wednesday, September 16th at 7 PM at Julie Garland's house. Please order [Romans 8-16 For You](#) by Tim Keller and read chapter 1 for our first meeting. (Garland's address is 1324 N Norton Ave.)

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

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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