



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

First Sunday After Christmas

12.29.2019

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

It is one of the defining marks of Our Time that God is now weightless. I do not mean by this that he is ethereal but rather that he has become unimportant. He rests upon the world so inconsequentially as not to be noticeable. He has lost his saliency for human life. Those who assure the pollsters of their belief in God's existence may nonetheless consider him less interesting than television, his commands less authoritative than their appetites for affluence and influence, his judgment no more awe-inspiring than the evening news, and his truth less compelling than the advertisers sweet fog of flattery and lies.

—David Wells

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:1-3

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion;

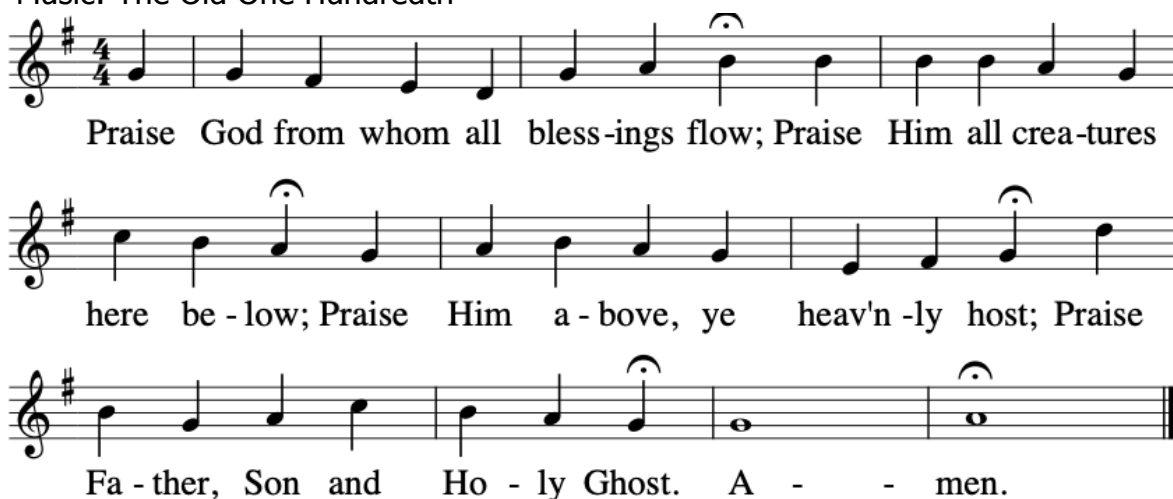
he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

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.

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Music & Lyrics: James Montgomery & Henry Smart



Angels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;



Ye who sang cre - a - tions sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear; [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

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.

Confession of Sin

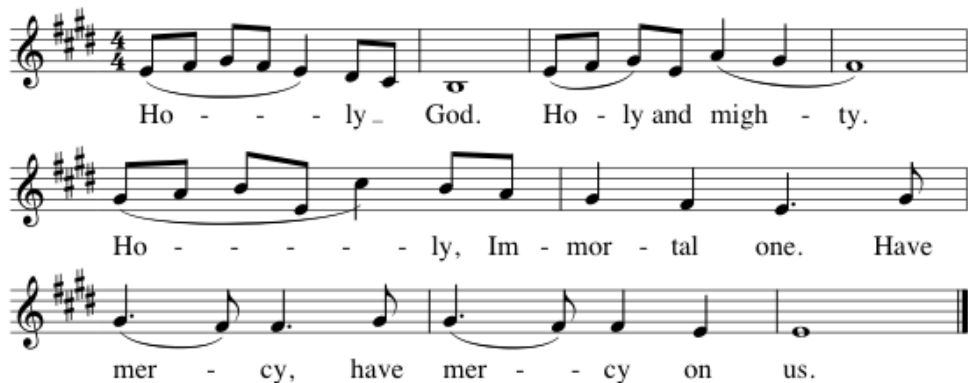
[Pray aloud together]

**O Father, relieve our consciences,
now and in the hour of our death,
from the terror of our guilt
and the fear of your judgment.
Let your peace come into our hearts
that we may await your judgment with joy.
Be not severe in your judgment of us,
or no one will be found righteous.
Teach us, dear Father, not to trust
or find comfort in our own merits or good works.
But teach us to venture and resign ourselves
faithfully and firmly to your infinite mercy.
In the same manner,
let us not lose courage
because of our guilty and sinful lives.
Let us regard your mercy
as higher and broader
and stronger than all our being. 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.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

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 tongues 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.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

God, our Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, our Sympathetic High Priest,
and Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide,

We pray for grace and mercy for your church,
that we would be unified in mind and purpose.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace and mercy for our children,
**that they would know you, love you,
and follow you all the days of their lives.**

(Please pray silently for our children.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace and mercy for those struggling with faith,
**that you would be present in the midst of their
struggles and make known to them your transforming
love in the gospel.**

(Please pray silently for those struggling with faith.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace and mercy for those who suffer,
**that you would comfort them in their pain
and bring healing according to your will.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant us, Father, hearts to believe that Jesus now sits in strength
and is able to sympathize with our weakness.

And hear us now as we pray in the words he taught us:

**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

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

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

Gospel Reading

John 1:14-18

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Let This Heart Not Wander

Lyrics & Music: Eric J. Marshall

Let my eyes see no-thing, let my eyes see no-thing but your
glo-ry, my Lord. _ Let my eyes see no-thing, let my
eyes see no-thing but your glo-ry, my Lord. _

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

May I always linger, May I always linger,
In your presence, my Lord. (repeat)

I will ever praise you, I will ever praise you,
You are worthy, my Lord. (repeat)

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:8

I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.

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

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.**

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 to receive the bread and the cup. We provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

Our Great God

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega & Mac Powell



E - ter-nal God, un - chang _____ing, my - ster - ious and un - known. Your



bound - less love un - fail _____ing, in grace and mer - cy shown. Bright



ser - a - phim in cease - less flight a - round your glor - ious throne. They



raise their voi - ces day _____and night in praise to you a - lone.

Chorus



Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great



God. Ha - le - lu _____ jah! Glo - ry be to our great God.

Lord, we are weak and frail, and helpless in the storm;
Surround us with Your angels and hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field, and valley of the earth,
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God, Who rules them by his word.

All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

Lyrics: Edward Perronet; Music: Oliver Holden



All hail the pow'r of Jes-us' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall; Bring



forth the roy-al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring



forth the roy-al di - a - dem and crown Him, Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

Benediction

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.

New Women's Bible Study coming: Every other Wednesday Night, starting in January. Details to follow.

TableTalk: Sunday, 1/5, dinner and conversation after church in a home or restaurant. Tell Sara Edgar if you want to host, and look for the sign up next week at church. This doesn't have to be an elaborate meal—pizza, soup, meet at a restaurant—the conversation is the main thing.

Book Groups: Men's book club will meet Tuesday, January 7th at 7 PM at Matt McReynold's house to discuss *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Women's book club will meet Friday, January 10th at Alicia Morris's house to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith

Midtown Presbyterian Church
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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