



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

01.24.2021

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

Our deepest fears are like dragons guarding our deepest treasure.
—Rainer Maria Rilke

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

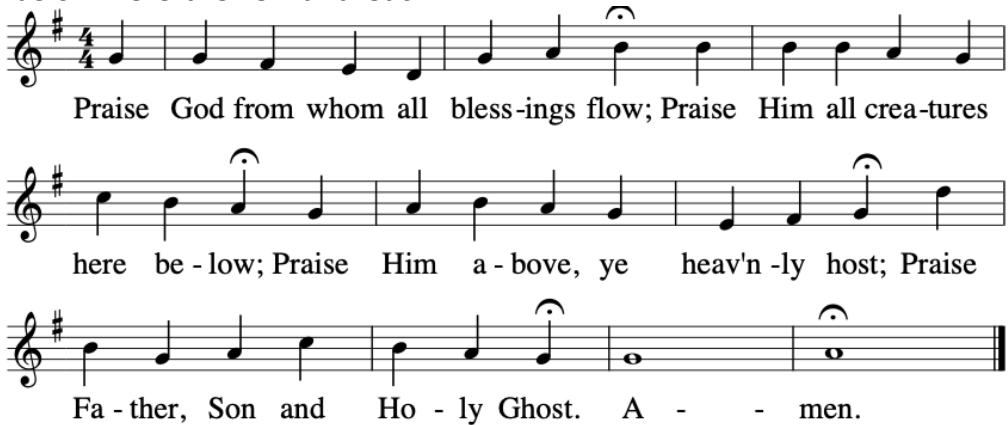
Psalm 99:9

Exalt the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy!

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.

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;'. The second staff contains: 'pros-trate ly-ing, suf-fring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.'. The third staff contains: 'Vic-tory gain-ing, life ob - tain -ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.'.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever
Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5-6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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

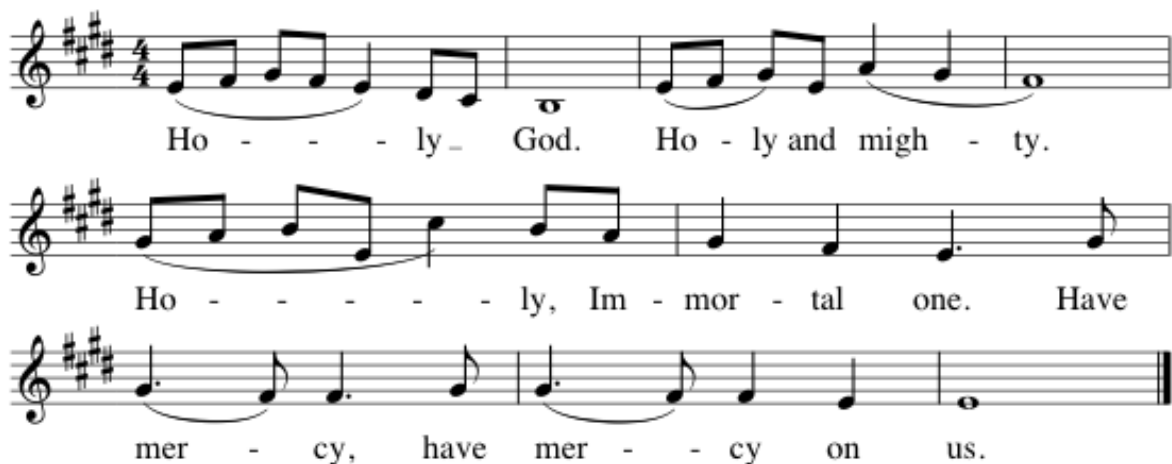
[Pray aloud together]

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

(You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.)

Trisagion

Music: Fernando Ortega



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and might - ty.

Ho - - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

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.

Before the Throne of God Above

Lyrics: Charitie Lee Bancroft; Music: Vikki Cook

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Before the Throne of God Above'. It consists of five staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features a simple melody with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Be-fore the throne of God a-bove, I have a strong and per-fect plea;
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who-ev-er lives and pleads for me.
My name is gra - ven on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tounge can bid me
thence de-part, no tounge can bid me thence de-part.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within;
Upward I look, and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I AM," The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die; My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.

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.

May God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face to shine upon us.

(Silent prayer for God to bless this congregation)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

That your way may be known on earth,

your saving power among all nations.

(Silent prayer for a display of God's saving power here in Tucson)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

(Silent prayer for our non-Christian friends to begin to follow Jesus)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

(Silent prayer for all who suffer.)

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.

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.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:31-39

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

How Firm A Foundation

Music & Lyrics: Traditional

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Firm A Foundation'. It consists of four staves of music in 2/2 time, written in treble clef. The melody is simple and features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes or bars. The final note of the fourth staff is a whole rest, indicating the end of the phrase.

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."

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dan Smith

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose
again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
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.]

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.

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.]

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

The image shows a musical score for the song "Your Labor Is Not In Vain". It consists of seven staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a main body of text, a section labeled "Chorus", and a section labeled "- to verse 2". The final line of the score ends with a double bar line.

Your la - bor - is not in - vain though the
ground un - der - neath you is cursed and - stained. Your
plant - ing and reap - ing are ne - ver the same, - but your
Chorus
la - bor is not ___ in vain. For I am
- to verse 2
with you. I am with you. I am with you. I am
with you. For I have called you, called you by name. - your
la - bor is not ___ in vain.

Your labor is not unknown,
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,
But your labor is not unknown [chorus]

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit;
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth;
For all that is old will at last be made new,
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit [chorus]

The houses you labor to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled;
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed [chorus]

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), B0 (quarter). The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

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: During 2021 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.

Men of Faith Conference: We are joining with several other churches to hold a 4 session video/discussion conference led by Paul Tripp. The meetings will be on the last Saturday mornings of January-April from 7:30-9:00 at Catalina Foothills Church. It’s free but you need to sign up so we can plan for food and seating. Let Charles know if you’re in.

International Student Ministry: If you’re interested in learning about hospitality for International students at UofA, please let Charles know. We are going to have a training once we have a few folks interested.

Monday Soccer: We are starting back this 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

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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