



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
01.28.2024

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

My depression is why I'm drawn to philosophy, so acutely interested in Kafka, Dostoevsky and [Ingmar] Bergman. I think I have all the symptoms and problems that those people are occupied with: An obsession with death, an obsession with God or the lack of God, the question of why we are here. Answers are what I want.

--Woody Allen

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

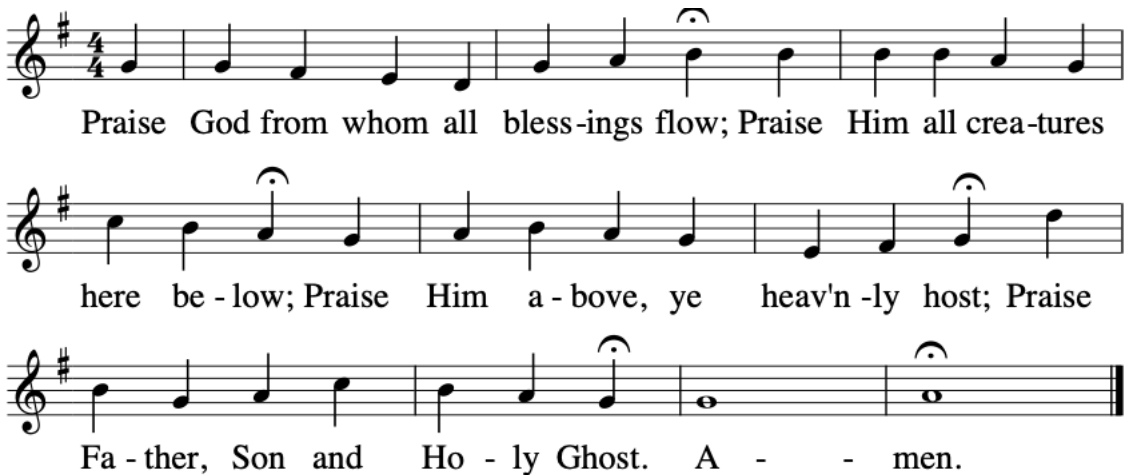
Psalm 62:5-8

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

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

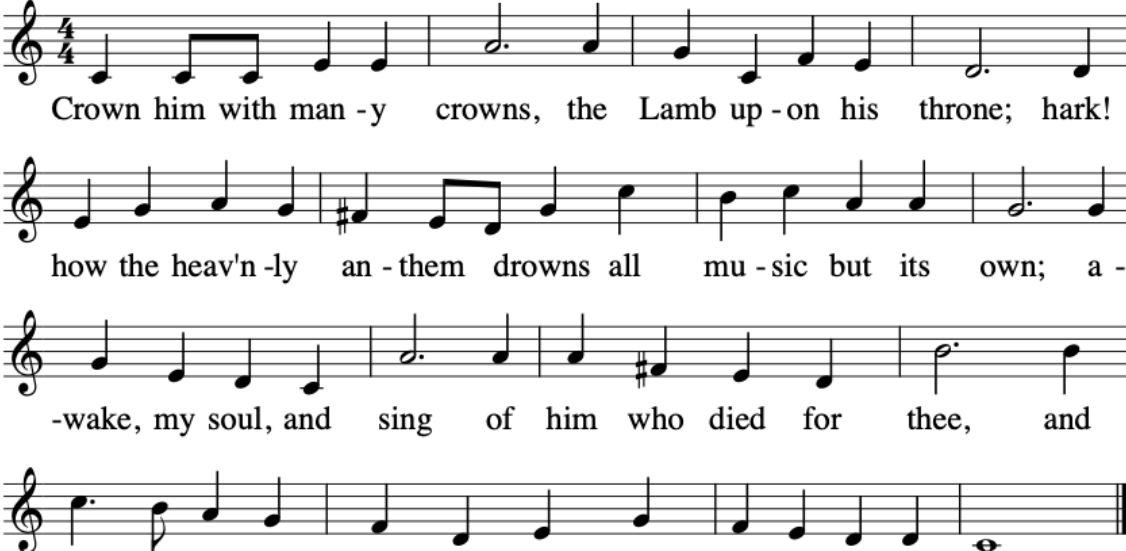
Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all 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.

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Music: George J. Elvy; Lyrics: Matthew Bridges



Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!
how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
-wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 3:20-21

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

Confession of Sin

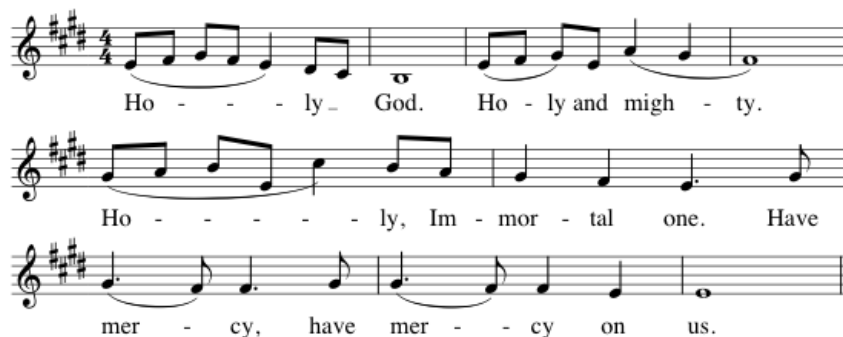
[Please pray aloud together]

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And, O most holy and loving Father, help us, we plead with you, to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Yet Not I But Christ in Me

Music & Lyrics: Johnny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Je-sus, my re - deem-er. There is no
more for hea-ven now to give; He is my joy, my right-eous-ness and
free-dom; my stead-fast love, my deep and bound-less peace. To this I
hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus! For my life is whol-ly bound to
his. O how strange and di-vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing;
for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead;
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid;
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea;
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for He has said that He will bring me home;
And day by day, I know He will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me."

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.

Almighty God, In Jesus Christ you taught us to pray,
And to offer our petitions to you in His name.

**Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our
prayers for others may serve your will
and show your steadfast love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let us pray for our friends and family (silence). Amen.

God of all generations, You formed your church from the despised of
the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation
to all.

**Strengthen those you have chosen
that they may faithfully endure all trials
by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let us pray for the church (silence). Amen.

God of comfort,

You bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow.

**Look with compassion on those who are troubled,
cheer them by your word,
and bring them healing as a sign of your grace
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let us pray for the sick and those who sorrow (silence). 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.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We pray now 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.**

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

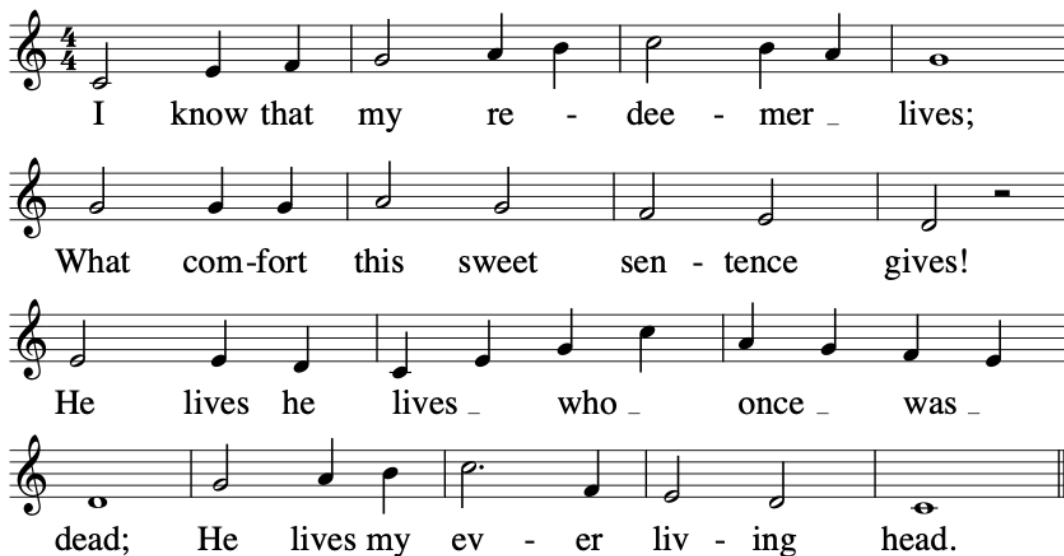
John 20:24-29

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'I Know That My Redeemer Lives'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'I know that my re - dee - mer - lives; What com-fort this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives he lives - who - once - was - dead; He lives my ev - er liv - ing head.'

He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives and I shall conquer death;
He lives and while I live I'll sing,
He lives my prophet, priest, and king.

He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save,
What joy this bless'd assurance gives;
I know that my redeemer lives.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-19; 29-34

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope [b] in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁹Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? ³⁰Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

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 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 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.]

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score is divided into a main body and a chorus section.

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]

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Lyrics: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner

4 On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and
7 cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and
11 hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am
14 bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am
bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a four-measure rest, followed by the melody. The lyrics are: 'On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.' The score ends with a double bar line.

All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful
shore; Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

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 (www.mpctucson.org/donate). —>>



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.

Super Bowl Party: February 11th after church at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave.). The game starts at 4:30pm and church starts at 5:00pm. We will record the game and start it when we gather after church (around 6:45 presumably). Invite friends if you want to.

Women's Bible Study: We need a host for this Thursday at 7pm. Let Hannah Johnson know if you can do this.

Refugee Family: Our new family arrived this week from Congo. They are staying down near the airport temporarily. Jeannette Mendoza (jmarg2011@hotmail.com) can help connect you if you would like to help them settle in to their new home.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

Midtown Presbyterian Church
www.mpctucson.org
P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717
678.849.7918

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