



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

Christ the King Sunday  
11.26.2023

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 (just babies-3yrs today). You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

## **Reflection**

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

The task of loving an evil person requires supernatural intervention. The battle is not yours; it is the Lord's. The only motivation strong enough to propel you into battle is an unquenchable desire to know the mighty God who changed your heart and can change the evil person's as well.

--Dan Allender

# The Word

## Call to Worship

Psalm 136:1-3

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever

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.

## The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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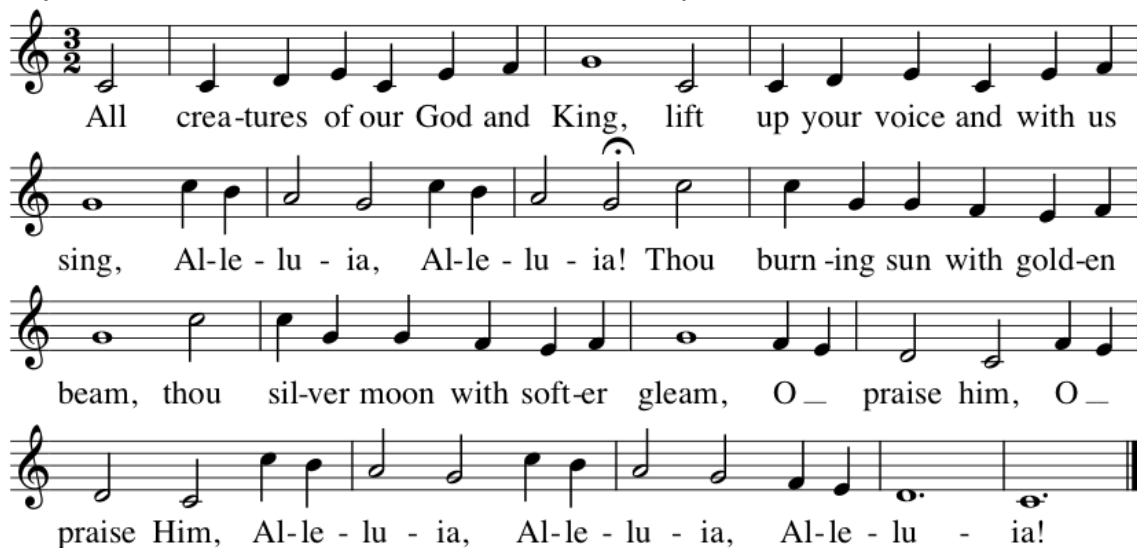
Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er

10

shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

# All Creatures of our God and King

Lyrics: St. Francis of Assisi; Music: William Draper



All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
sing, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en  
beam, thou sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam, O - praise him, O -  
praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of ev'ning find a voice! O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care! O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Prayer of Invocation

# Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

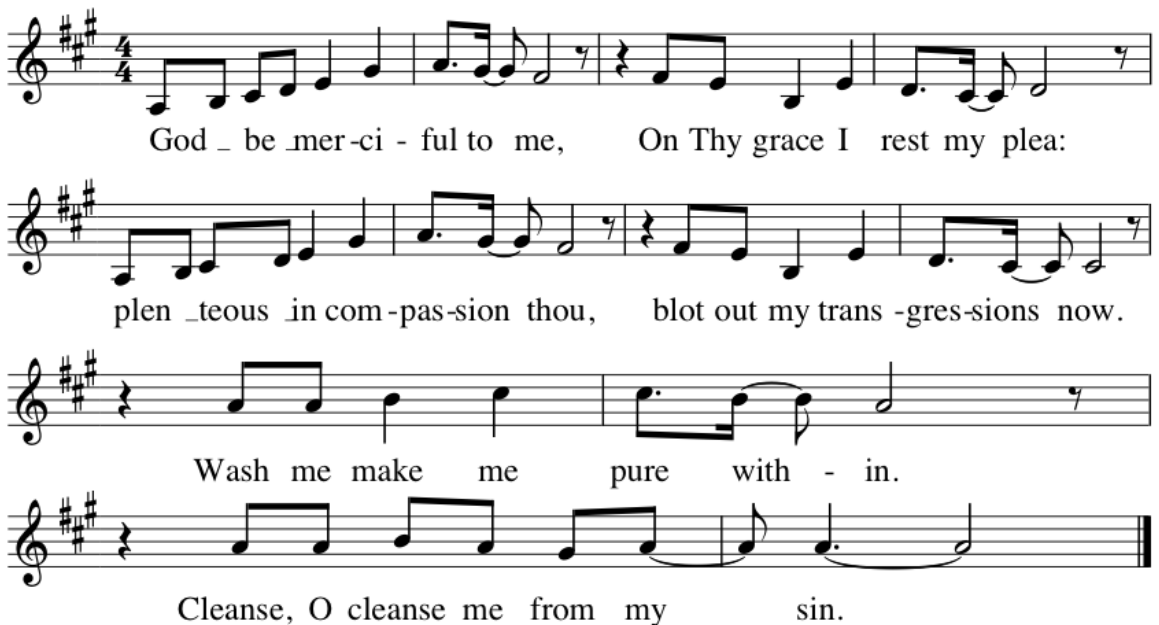
We confess our sins as a group and individually because we need to. We come to worship God even though we are morally broken, in certain hope that he is merciful to people like us, and able to change us by his grace.

## Confession of Sin

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

## Psalm 51

Music: Chris Miner



God \_ be \_mer-ci - ful to me,      On Thy grace I rest my plea:  
plen \_teous in com-pas-sion thou,      blot out my trans -gres-sions now.  
Wash me make me pure with - in.  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.  
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Titus 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## **Psalm 51** (Continues)

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgement just.  
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.  
From my sins, oh, hide thy face: Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.  
Cast me not away from thee; let Thy spirit dwell in me.  
Thy salvation's joy impart: Steadfast make my willing heart.

# The Prayers of the People

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Our God, be gracious to us and bless us

**and make your 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 powerful 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, family members, and co-workers 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.**



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.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

[Reader: Frances Willberg]

Psalm 107:33-43

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 15:1-7

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# Holy, Holy, Holy

Lyrics: Reginald Heber; Music: John Dykes



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Tri - ni - ty.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who were and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

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 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.]

# Like a Wideness of the Sea

Music & Lyrics: Fredrich Faber, Ian Cron, Anthony Skinner

There's a wide-ness in — God's mer - cy like the  
wide-ness of \_ the sea; there's a kind-ness in \_ his jus-tice that can  
set the pris - oner free. There's no place where \_ our sor-rows are more  
felt than on \_ the throne; no fail-ure is \_ too great \_ that it

CHORUS

can-not be \_ a-toned. — There's wel-come for the sin-ner so there's  
room for you and me. There's a wide-ness in \_ God's mer-cy like the  
wide - ness of \_\_\_ the sea.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with dashes indicating where the notes are silent. The chorus section is marked with a double bar line and the word 'CHORUS' above it. The time signature changes to 2/4 for the first two measures of the chorus, then returns to 4/4 for the final measure.

For the love of God is broader than our minds can understand  
And the heart of the eternal won't refuse a broken man  
Was there ever a kinder Shepherd, half so gentle half so sweet  
Why would anybody wander from a love so true, so deep? [Chorus]

Oh we make His love so narrow by the limits of our own,  
And we magnify His strictness with a zeal He will not own. [Chorus]

# Crown Him

Music: Benji Pocta; Lyrics: Thomas Kelly

Look ye saints, — the sight is glo - rious: see the ex - alt-ed Sav-ior now;  
— From the fight — re-turned vic-to - rious, ev-ery knee to him shall  
bow; Crown him, crown him, — crowns be - come the Vic-tor's — brow. —

Crown the Savior! Saints adore him; Rich the trophies Jesus brings;  
In the seat of power enthrone him, While the vault of heaven rings;  
Crown him, crown him, Crown the Savior; King of Kings.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation!  
Hark, those loud triumphant chords;  
Jesus takes the highest station; O what joy the sight affords;  
Crown him, crown him, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## Benediction

## SOLSTICE LAMENT

Advent Season is just nearly upon us, with all its expectations of light and good cheer. Yet sometimes it can be difficult to find that cheer in the midst of shadowy winter days. Our world is plagued, weighed down by darkness. There is much that causes our hearts to be filled with sorrow, regret, anger, and numbness. It can be hard in the face of this to summon up hope or joy when so much pain still needs to be acknowledged, still needs to be mourned. As Christians we are called to be in community with each other, both in seasons of cheer and seasons of lament. To rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15). December 21st is the day of the Winter Solstice, in which our side of the planet is exposed to the longest night of the year. Let us take an opportunity on this night to cry out to God the weights and sorrows that are on our hearts, knowing that He is a God who is our shelter (Psalm 91) and a God who weeps with us (John 11:35). We will spend the evening praying for the sorrows of the world, for the sorrows of our country, the sorrows of our city, and the sorrows of our Midtown community.

Please reach out to Hannah Johnson if you would like to volunteer to lead a segment of prayer over a specific topic. A google form will be created for our congregation to be able to submit anonymous prayers leading up to the day, so that we can be specific in the way we intercede for each other. A liturgy and written prayers will be available to help us find the words.

# 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](http://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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**RUF Finals Survival Kits:** Help us collect items to give to U of A students ahead of finals week. We are collecting individual chip bags, granola bars, mini water bottles, water flavorers (gatorade, crystal light, etc.), candy, gum, mints, highlighters, pens, and pencils. If you want to give money towards it you can write a check to RUF or give cash to Matt. We need all donations in by December 4th to give out on campus that week. Any questions, reach out to Matt Esswein (714.209.6345, [matt.esswein@ruf.org](mailto:matt.esswein@ruf.org)).

**Refugee Ministry:** Second and final training, tonight after church. Food will be provided. Contact Jeannette Mendoza for details.

**Men's Book Group:** The next book is The Puritan Dilemma: the story of John Winthrop by Edmund Morgan. We will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7pm.

**Women's Ornament Exchange:** December 8 @ 6:30pm at the Satterfield's home (7902 N Tuscany Dr).

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

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