



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
08.22.2021

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 have a nursery provided for little ones. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

Well time slips away and leaves you with nothing,
mister, but boring stories of
Glory days, well they'll pass you by
Glory days, in the wink of a young girl's eye
Glory days, glory days

--Bruce Springsteen

If we were vampires and death was a joke
We'd go out on the sidewalk and smoke
And laugh at all the lovers and their plans
I wouldn't feel the need to hold your hand

Maybe time running out is a gift
I'll work hard 'til the end of my shift
And give you every second I can find
And hope it isn't me who's left behind

It's knowing that this can't go on forever
Likely one of us will have to spend some days alone
Maybe we'll get forty years together
But one day I'll be gone
Or one day you'll be gone

--Jason Isbell

Old age is no place for sissies.

--Bette Davis

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

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

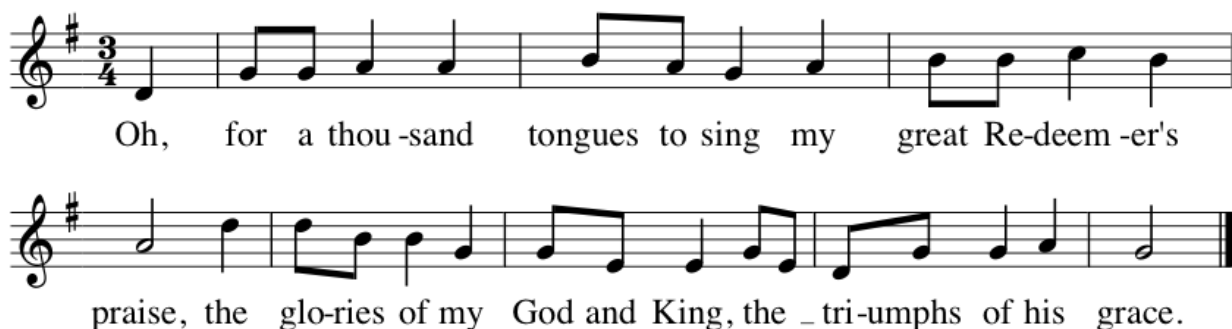
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

6
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.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Charles Glaser



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.

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

John 8:31-34

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

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

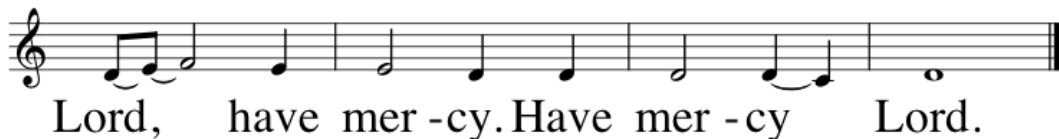
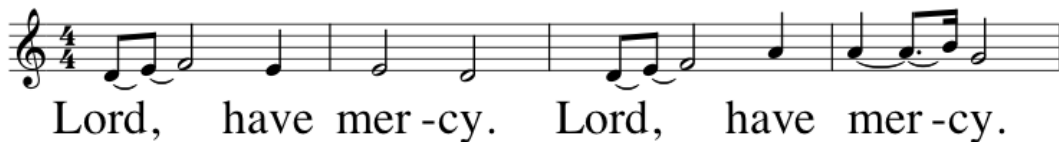
[Pray aloud together]

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Assurance of Forgiveness

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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.

Jesus Paid It All

—Lyrics & Music: Elvina M. Hall



I hear the Sav-ior say, "Thy strength in-deed is small, child of



weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."

Chorus



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



Sin had left a crim-son stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.

[Bridge] O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead;
O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead!

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Austin Morris]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you commanded the apostles to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every person.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a ready will to obey your word.

Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

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

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

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

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

May our children follow you all of their lives.

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

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

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.

Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.

(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)

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.

O God, everlasting Father, your kingdom comes by your power.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom to us.
We pray that you would bring your kingdom through us.

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples to pray, saying:
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

[Reader: Anna Hamstra]

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:36-38

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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.

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

⁸ So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

¹⁰ Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

12 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴ and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵ they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶ before the silver cord is

snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

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.]

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 red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Lyrics & Music: Kimbrough , Zach, Wardell, Keyes



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]

In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

Verse



When the fields are dry, and the win-ter is long,



bles-sed are the meek, the - hum-ble the poor; When my



soul is down - cast and my voice has no - song. For mer-cy, for

Chorus



com-fort, I wait on the Lord. In the har - vest feast or the



fal - low ground, my cer - tain hope is in Je - sus found; my



lot, my cup, my por - tion sure, what - e - ver comes we



shall - en - dure, what - e - ver comes - we shall - en - dure.

On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured
He rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky;
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door,
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. [Chorus]

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes,
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
Without His hand to guide me, my shield and my strength;
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. [Chorus]

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.

Prayer before the service: We have a few people meet to pray silently for the worship service and for the mission of the church from 4:30-4:45 in the youth room off of the playground behind the church. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, September 12, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). We’ll cover session 17 that morning (back on the advertised schedule!)

Monday Soccer: Monday at 6:00 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

Women’s Sermon Discussion: Wednesday Night at 7:00 at Dana McReynold's home ((1241 E Sobre Lomas). We’ll discuss the Ecclesiastes sermons referring to Charles’ sermons and William Price’s book [As Far As the Curse is Found](#).

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

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