



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Distancing & Safety Plan

So we can more safely meet together for worship we ask you to help us observe the following:

1. Leave every other pew open.
2. No nursery yet (the room is being renovated).
3. Wear masks so we can sing.
4. Communion will involve coming forward without crowding, and picking up a cup and wafer from the altar rail in front of the pulpit. The separate table of cups will have grape juice if you prefer that. The wafers are gluten free. Come forward up the center aisle and go back to your pew down the north aisle.
5. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
6. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

09.27.2020

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. Our nursery for our little ones isn't open yet, post-quarantine, but there is a cry room in the back, and some room in the foyer if they need a little space.

Reflection

We have turned to a God that we can use rather than to a God we must obey; we have turned to a God who will fulfill our needs rather than to a God before whom we must surrender our rights to ourselves. He is a God for us, for our satisfaction—not because we have learned to think of him this way through Christ but because we have learned to think of him this way through the marketplace.

—David Wells

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:9

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

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

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth

Music & Lyrics: Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics: 'For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies, for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies'. The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

For the _ beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
for the _ love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies

Refrain
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and Moon and stars of light
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For each perfect gift of Thine to our world so freely given
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

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.

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]

**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.**

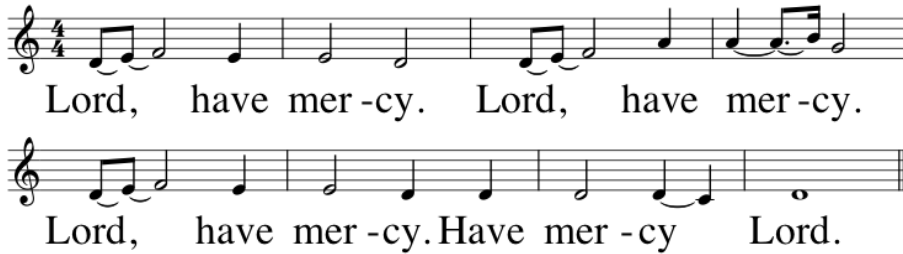
**In the same manner,
let us not lose courage
because of our guilty and sinful lives.**

**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.]

Kyrie Eleison

Music: Greg Wilbur



Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.
Lord, have mer-cy. Have mer-cy Lord.

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.

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.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

--Lyrics: Joseph Scriven; Music: Charles Converse



What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.



O what peace we of-ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
Jesus, Savior, is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Blessed Savior, you have promised, all our burdens you will bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to you in earnest prayer.
Soon, in glory bright unclouded, face to face it is our prayer!
Joyful praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:12-15

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:4-7

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

God's Highway

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not
see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the
way and in his arms he keeps - me safe.

Chorus
Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the
light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing
Bridge
on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me.

The musical score is written on a single staff in 6/8 time. It features a melody with lyrics underneath. The score is divided into sections: a main body of music, a chorus, and a bridge. The bridge is marked with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are: "My feet are strong, my eyes are clear. I can - not see the way - from here. But on we go; He knows the way and in his arms he keeps - me safe." The chorus is: "Fear not, keep on, watch and pray! Walk in the light of God's high - way. I'm hold - ing on to You Lord. — You're hold - ing on — to me." The bridge is: "I see the shore from troubled seas. This tiny ship that carries me, It is not yet, but it will be; So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]"

The shadows flee, the valley is deep,
But evil cannot conquer me.
Your rod and staff, they protect me;
You give me rest, You give me peace. [Chorus]

I see the shore from troubled seas.
This tiny ship that carries me,
It is not yet, but it will be;
So heaven come, it's You we need. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

Sermons are God's appointed means to communicate his Good News to a particular group of people in a particular local context. Sermons, by design, aren't impressive, so that God will get credit when he uses them in your life, rather than the preacher.

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.**

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.

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 cups on the taller, white table have wine and the ones on the wooden table have grape juice.]

***See the front of the bulletin for the Covid-19
Communion plan!**

Satan, Your Kingdom Must Come Down

Traditional Spiritual

The image shows a musical score for the spiritual 'Satan, Your Kingdom Must Come Down'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are identical. The third staff has a longer note for 'Je - - - sus' and a comma after 'say,'. The fourth staff is identical to the first two.

Sa - tan, your king - dom must come down.

Sa - tan, your king - dom must come down.

I heard the voice of Je - - - sus say,

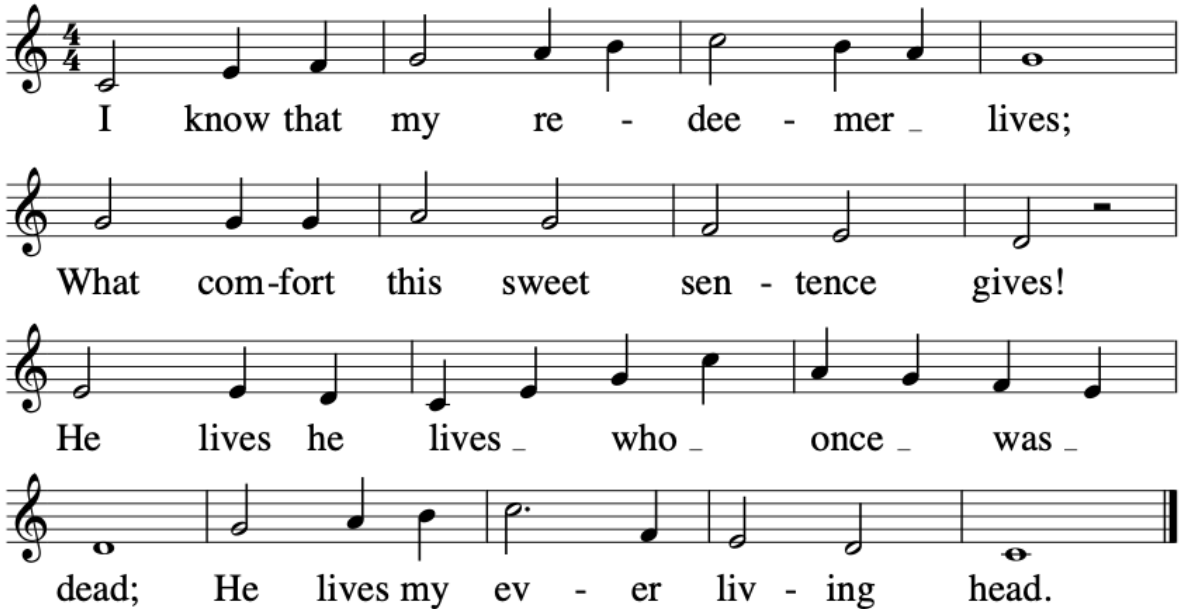
"Sa - tan your king - dom must come down."

I'm gonna pray until they tear your kingdom down;
Pray 'til they tear your kingdom down.
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Satan your kingdom must come down."

They'll shout until they tear your kingdom down;
Shout 'til they tear your kingdom down.
I heard the voice of Jesus cry,
"Satan your kingdom must come down."

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



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.

As God has the first word in our worship service, he also has the last. The Benediction is given so you will leave church with the words of God's grace and favor ringing in your ears, and know how deeply he loves you.

Benediction

Moving Plans

Today is our last Sunday to meet here at Our Saviour's Lutheran. They have been wonderful hosts to us over the past three years, but that time is closing now, due primarily to Covid concerns.

Beginning next week we will be meeting at Vineyard Christian Community, at 625 N 2nd Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705. The church is at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 5th Street in the West University neighborhood. They have a small parking lot off the alley behind the church, but most of us will need to park on the street. There is plenty of parking, and the University restrictions on parking don't apply on the weekends. We will send more details as needed, and as we have them. Please be flexible and gracious as we work out the kinks of such a sudden move. Also, thank the Lord, and as you have a chance, the Vineyard congregation for this provision.

I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us as we watch him extend his kingdom in Tucson, and build Midtown Presbyterian as part of that.

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: 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.

Intro to Midtown Class Sunday Morning, **October 11th**. This is a class for people interested in joining Midtown or just finding out more about us. There is a booklet to read through beforehand, and we'll have the class on 10/11 to discuss questions and ideas. Let Charles know if you are interested so he can get the booklet to you in advance. Meeting place is TBD.

Saturday Morning Homeless Ministry: If you're interested in helping with some relief ministry for homeless people in Midtown, contact Tim and Kim Davis and they will help you get started. (tdavisua74@gmail.com or kimdi74@gmail.com)

Monday Soccer in the Mall: Monday evenings at 5:30 a group is meeting on the U of A mall to play soccer. Everyone is welcome.

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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