



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
11.12.2023

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. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

Reflection

My life testifies that the first thing I believe is that I am the most important person in the world. My life testifies to this because I care more about my food and shelter and happiness than about anybody else.

--Donald Miller

If you want Jesus with you, you have to give up the right to self-determination.

—Tim Keller

If you go into marriage seeking self-actualization, you will always feel frustrated because marriage, and especially parenting, will constantly be dragging you away from the goals of self.

—David Zahl

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:3-5

Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with
praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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.

Doxology

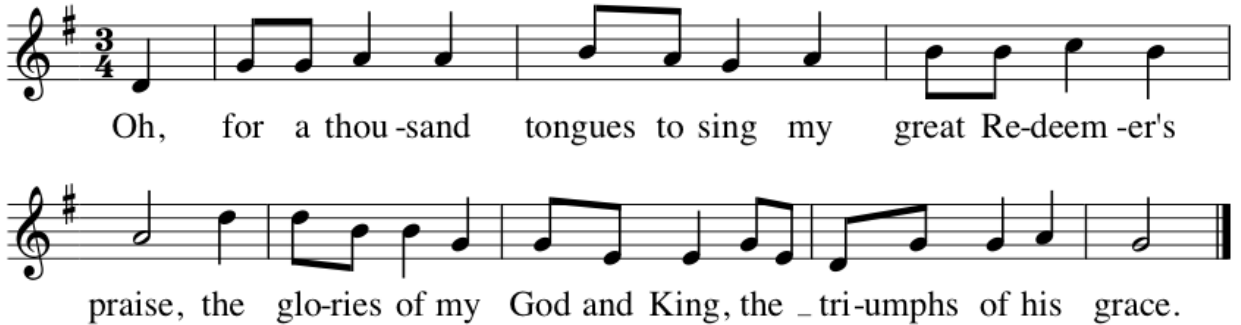
Music: The Old One Hundredth

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.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. 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

The invocation is a prayer asking for God to come and be present with us in the worship service. We come with hope that God will come and speak to us, heal us, and stir up love for him in our minds and hearts.

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 64:6-7

We have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

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]

Lord,

I worry because I forget your wisdom.

I resent because I forget your mercy.

I covet because I forget your beauty.

I sin because I forget your holiness.

I fear because I forget your sovereignty.

You always remember me. Help me to remember you.

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

Isaiah 63:16

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

The Love of Christ Is Rich and Free

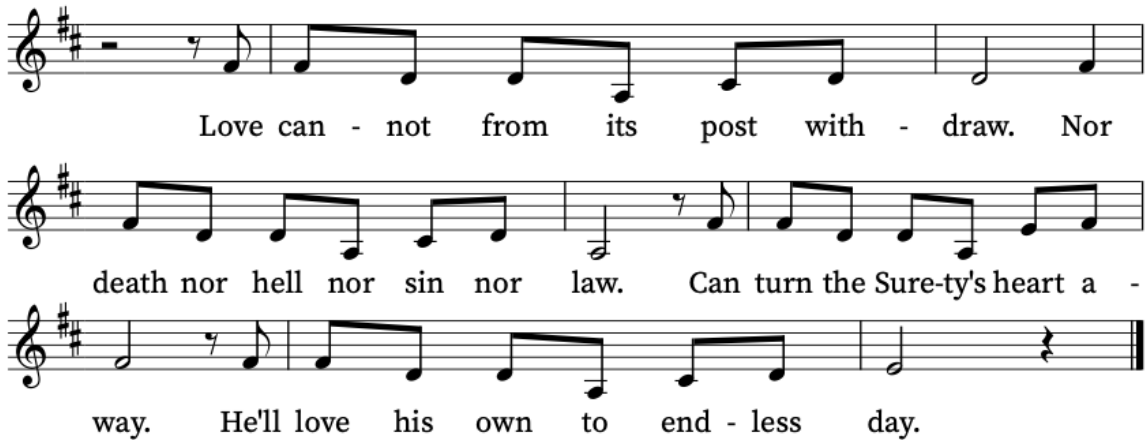
Lyrics: William Gadsby; Music: Sandra McCracken

Verse

The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on his
own e - ter - nal - ly; nor earth, nor hell, can it re -
move; long as he lives, his own he'll love. His lov - ing heart
en - gaged to be their ev - er - last - ing Sur - e - ty; 'Twas love that took
their cause in hand, and love main - tains it to the _____ end.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on his own e - ter - nal - ly; nor earth, nor hell, can it re - move; long as he lives, his own he'll love. His lov - ing heart en - gaged to be their ev - er - last - ing Sur - e - ty; 'Twas love that took their cause in hand, and love main - tains it to the _____ end." The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first line and a fermata over the final note of the last line.

Chorus



Love can - not from its post with - draw. Nor
death nor hell nor sin nor law. Can turn the Sure-ty's heart a -
way. He'll love his own to end - less day.

Love has redeemed his sheep with blood;
And love will bring them safe to God;
Love calls them all from death to life;
And love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
Nor aught from him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart
Can make his love for her depart. [Chorus]

At death, beyond the grave, he'll love;
In endless bliss, his own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love
Which never could from them remove,
Which never could from them remove.

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

[Reader: Megan Stewart]

Proverbs 18:1

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:23-24

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Revelation Song

Music & Lyrics: Jamie Lee Riddle

Verse



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain; hol-y, hol-y is he; _



Sing a new song to him who sits on heav-en's mer-cy seat. _



Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord God Al might - y.



Who was _ and is _ and is _ to come; _



With all cre-a - tion I sing praise to the King of kings; _



You are my ev-'ry-thing _ and I will a-dore you!

Clothed in rainbows of living color;
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be
To you the only wise King. [Chorus]

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, At the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water;
Such a marv'lous mystery. [Chorus]

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 13:5

Love... is not... rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

—Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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 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.]

Psalm 126

Music: Issac Wardell



1. Our mouths they were filled, filled _ with laugh - ter.
2. The na - tions will say: "He has done great things!"



Our tongues they were loosed, loosed _ with joy.
the na - tions will sing songs _ of joy.



Re-store us, O Lord. Re-store us O Lord.



Although we are weep-ing. Lord help us keep sow - ing



the seeds of your King-dom for the day you will reap _ them.



Your sheaves we will car - ry. Lord please do not tar - ry.



All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy.

Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

Music & Lyrics: Wendell Kimbrough



1. We were wan - d'ring in the des - ert with our souls
2. We were locked out of the gar - den and our backs



so starved and weak; we were hun - gry for a home
bend down with pain in the sha - dow of death's dark -



- land we did not know how to seek, but we lift -
- ness we were slaves to sin and blame then we cried



- ed up our voi - ces to the on - ly one who hears
out in our la - bor to the on - ly one who hears



and the God of mer - cy came and brought us near.

Chorus



Oh give thanks to the Lord for His love en - dures for - ev -



- er! We were wan - der - ing and lost and our Fa -



- ther brought us home to a safe dwel - ling place to a feast



of joy and laugh - ter. Oh give thanks



to the Lord for he is good.

We were fools in our rebellion with our hunger strike of pride;
We were sick and growing closer to the death we should have died,
Then he heard of our condition, and he called us by our names,
And the God of glory took away our shame. [Chorus]

We were far out on the ocean making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction brought us
trembling to our knees,
Then we cried like drunken sailors to the only One who hears
And the God of comfort took away our tears. [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. 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.

November Combined Book Group: November 14th at the McReynolds' home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). Reading The Phantom of the Opera.

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).

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

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