



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. We will space out the chairs as much as we can.
2. Wear masks so we can sing.
3. 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.
4. Try to go outside for visiting with each other after the service.
5. We will disinfect surfaces in the sanctuary and bathrooms before the service.

Evening Worship

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10.25.2020

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.

Reflection

Yet without true Christians loving one another, Christ says the world cannot be expected to listen, even when we give proper answers. Let us be careful, indeed, to spend a lifetime studying to give honest answers. For years the orthodox, evangelical church has done this very poorly. So it is well to spend time learning to answer the questions of men who are about us. But after we have done our best to communicate to a lost world, still we must never forget that the final apologetic which Jesus gives is the observable love of true Christians for true Christians.

--Francis Schaeffer

The Word

Call to Worship

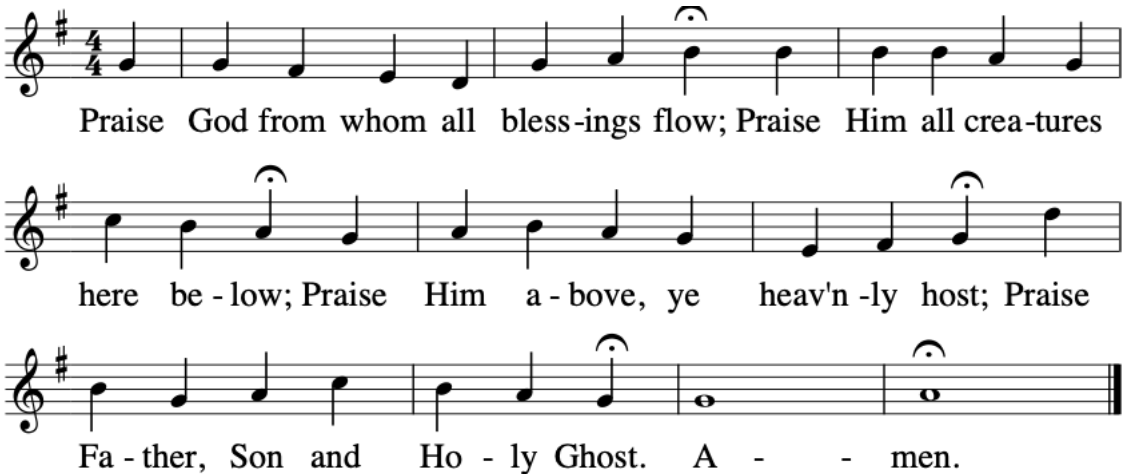
1 Timothy 1:17

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

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



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

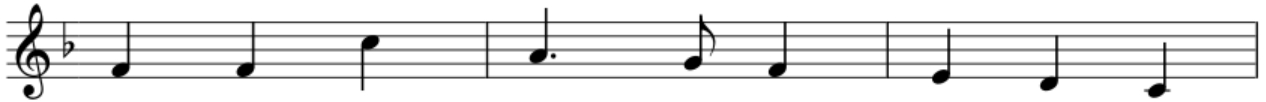
In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lyrics: Joachim Neander; Music: 17th Century German Tune



1.Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty the king of cre - a - tion!
2.Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth.
3.Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.
4.Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea so
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here
All that hath life and breath, come now with



help and sal - - va - - - tion!
gent - - ly sus - - tain eth!
dai - - ly at - - tend thee.
prai - - ses be - - fore him.



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw
Hast thou not seen how all your long - ings hath
Pon - der a new what the Al - migh - ty can
Let the a men sound from his peo - ple a -



near. Praise him in glad a - dor - a - tion!
been, gran - ted in what he or - dain - eth?
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
gain, Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 32:4-6

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

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

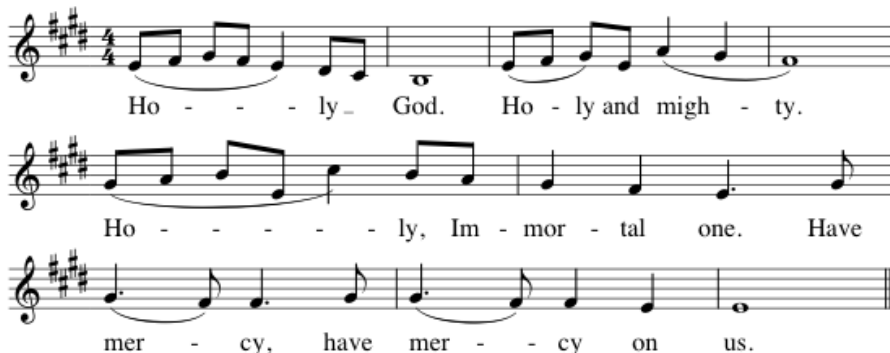
[Please pray aloud together]

Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that his blood is our peace, his death our freedom, his smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. In the name 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

Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

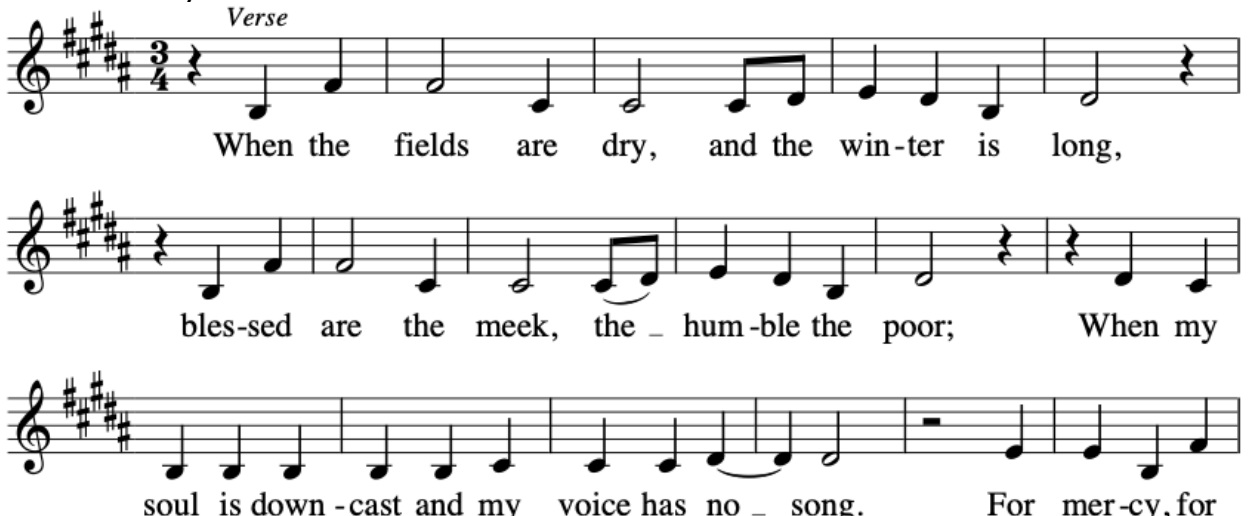
All: And also with you!

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.

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]

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Tim Davis]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,

That we all may be one.

(Please pray silently for the unity of the church.)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully serve you.

That your name would be honored by all people.

(Please pray silently for the mission of the church.)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who lead and guide your church

That they may be your faithful and diligent servants.

(Please pray silently for all who lead the church.)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

(Please pray silently for the nations of the world.)

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.

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble

That they may be delivered from their distress.

(Please pray silently for those 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: Annie Fennema]

Leviticus 19: 17-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 15:12-17

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus I Come

Music: Greg Thompson; Lyrics: William Sleeper

Out of my bon - dage, sor-row and night, Je - sus I come;

Je - sus I come. _ In - to thy free - dom, glad-ness and light

Je - sus I come to thee. _ Out of my sick-ness in - to thy

health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth, out of my

sin _ and in - to thy - self, Je - sus I _ come to thee. _

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus I come to Thee.

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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

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.

Confession of Faith

(Heidelberg Catechism #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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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 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 table have wine and the ones in the silver tray have grape juice.]

He Will Hold Me Fast

Lyrics: Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music: Matt Merker



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt-er would pre-vail, he will hold me fast.
Pre-cious in his ho-ly sight, he will hold me fast.
Just-ice has been sat-is-fied; he will hold me fast.



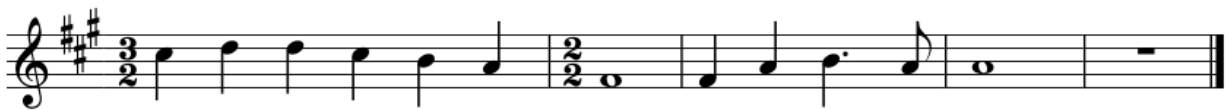
I could nev-er keep my hold through life's fear-ful path
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom-is-es shall last;
Raised with him to end-less life; he will hold me fast;



for my love is oft-en cold; he must hold me fast.
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
'Til our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!



He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.



For my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Take Us, O Lord

Lyrics & Music: Isaac Wardell



O how he takes _ the cross, O how he lifts _ it up



to take the weight from us. O how he pays _ the cost,



O how he drinks the cup, to make a place _ for us.

CHORUS



Take us, _ O Lord, and all we have known. Shape us, O



Lord, and form us in - to your own. Take eve - ry heart and



know eve-ry sin. Break us, O Lord, that we may be whole a - gain.

Hear how he breaks the curse, hear how he cries aloud,
Hear how his voice resounds. O how he forms the words,
O how he cries them out, "See it is finished now!"

How deep the wounds he wears, how dark the scars he shows,
How well the name he knows; written upon his palms,
O what a name to find. That name before him: Mine!

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.

November Joint Book Group: We will have our annual joint book club (men and women) dinner to discuss The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 PM. Location is the McReynolds patio (4779 E. Avenida del Cazador). Please RSVP to Matt or Dana McReynolds if you plan to attend so they know how much food to prepare.

Women’s Bible Study: Wednesday Night at 7:00 on Julie’s Garland’s patio (1324 N Norton Ave). We will be on Chapter 4 of Tim Keller’s Book on Romans (Vol. 2), which covers Romans chapter 9. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Website Church Photo Directory: Nancy Price has been keeping our photo directory up to date, which helps immensely with new people and getting to know each other. If you have edits (better pictures) or need to be added let her know (nancylynprice@msn.com). The password on the website page is “dryheat”.

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

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



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Biblical references are taken from the Holy Bible: English Standard Version (ESV) Copyright 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Music: Most historic hymns are public domain. Recent praise songs are printed under Midtown Presbyterian Church's CCLI License # 11521797.