



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
10.17.2021

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

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Most Christians facing death on account of their faith and their consistent practice of their faith have not been rescued. They were thrown into the fire and died there. But the term we use for them—martyr—doesn't refer to their death; it refers to their witness. They did what these three men [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3] did: they preferred God to life itself; they bore witness to him and to their faith in him. For us, as for those men, the crucial issue is never whether we will be delivered, but whether we will obey and demonstrate our loyalty to God.

—Rob Rayburn

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

Psalm 105:1-2

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

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.

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.

The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -
joice. From world to world, the joy shall ring, - "The Lord om -

Chorus

ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! - Lord of
Lords, An-cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his
Praise! - All your - days, all your - days.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lord is King'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two staves of music with lyrics underneath. The second system has two staves of music with lyrics underneath. The third system has three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear lyrics.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must;
The judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5-6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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

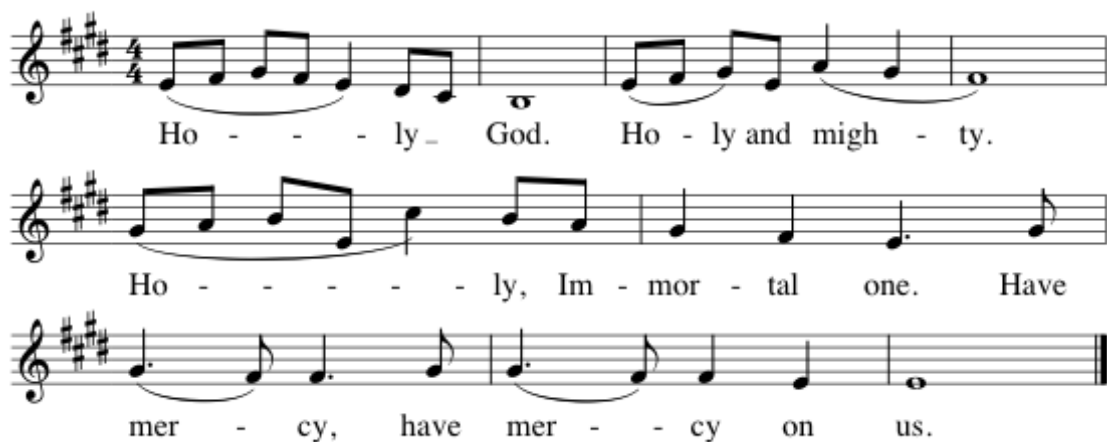
[Pray aloud together.]

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. 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.

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

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 Nick Davis]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

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.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, since You have promised to grant our requests, we make our supplications to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence). Amen.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to
be wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (silence). Amen.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving
grace through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence). Amen.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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.**

New Testament Reading

[Reader: Alicia Morris]

1 Peter 3:13-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:9-12

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Lyrics & Music: Robert Lowry

5 What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing -but the blood of Je - sus!

9 What can make me whole a-gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

13 O, pre-cious is the flow, that makes me white as sn - ow!

No o-ther fount I know. No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Nothing But the Blood of Jesus'. 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 staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a longer note value for the first note, and the fourth staff concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: '5 What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing -but the blood of Je - sus!', '9 What can make me whole a-gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!', '13 O, pre-cious is the flow, that makes me white as sn - ow!', and 'No o-ther fount I know. No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!'.

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 3:1-18

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." furnace. ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹ They declared to King Nebuch-adnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

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.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.]

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

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CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down;
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

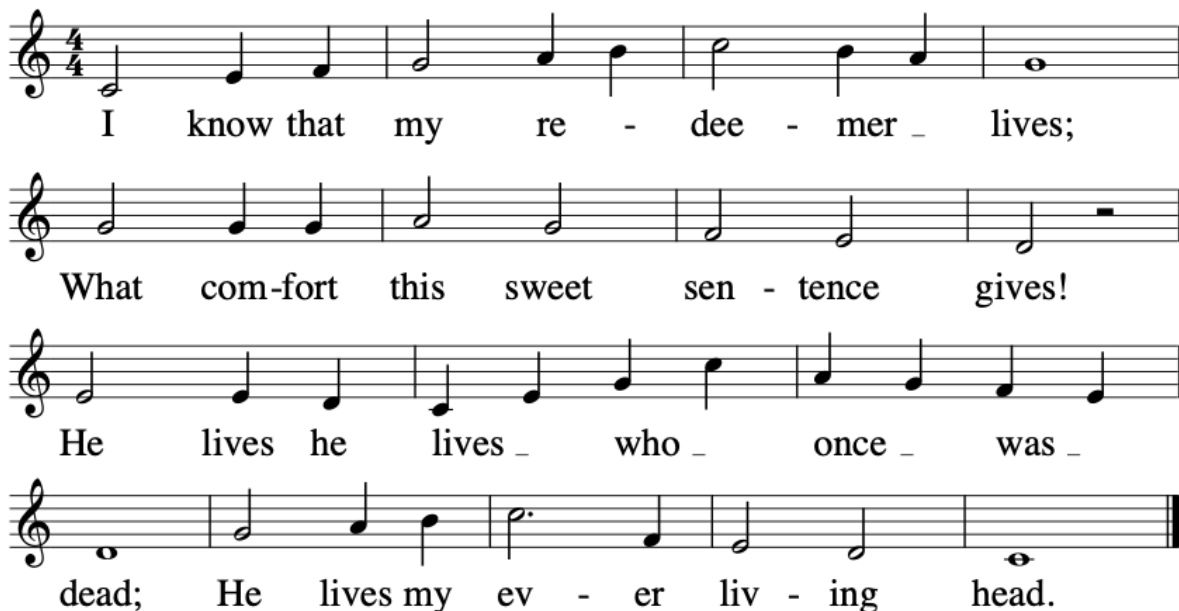
At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he;
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he. [Chorus]

The table now is spread, the table now is spread;
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed,
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near. [Chorus & Repeat First Verse]

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'I Know That My Redeemer Lives'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'I know that my re - dee - mer - lives;'. The second staff contains 'What com-fort this sweet sen - tence gives!'. The third staff contains 'He lives he lives - who - once - was -'. The fourth staff contains 'dead; He lives my ev - er liv - ing head.'.

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.

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: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at the U of A Mall.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

RUF Front Porch Bible Study: Tuesdays @8:00pm at Koffler 216.

Nursery Volunteer Help Needed: Our nursery is growing and we need a few more hands on deck. If you are interested/willing please tell Olivia Stowe or Josiah Howard. And if they buttonhole you about doing it, give them a chance!

Pastor: Charles Garland
Minister in Residence: Nick Davis
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra &

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