



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Pentecost Sunday

05.19.2024

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. All of our kiddos will meet in the Hamilton House. Check in is at the west end of the courtyard. You are welcome to keep them in the service with you if you prefer.

## **Reflection**

All are said to begin at the same level, and all will reach the same place. But a careful look at different world views makes it impossible to be so categorical. Try looking for a basic commonality and world views. It is not a belief in God, because not all worldview believe in God—confusion is agnostic; Zen Buddhism is atheistic. Nor is it the authority of a sacred text, for not all religions have such texts, and those that do are not comparable. The Vedas do not have the same status as the Koran. The inspiration for the Bible is quite distinct from the way the Bhagavadgita was handed down. Nor is it an eschatology—vision for the end of the world. Marxism vision is based on his historical materialism, but refuses the label. "religion ". Mahayana Buddhism believes in abandoning any utopian ideas and opting for the sunyata, or ultimate void. The list continues. When all is said and done, what finally matters is one essential question: Is it true?

—William Edgar

# 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 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

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.

# 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

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics.

## 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.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## Abide With Me

Lyrics: Henry Lytle; Music: Justin Smith

A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven tide;  
The dark-ness deep-ens; Lord with me a - bide.  
When o - ther help - ers, fail and com - forts flee.  
Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a treble clef. The lyrics are written below each staff. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

## **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.**

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

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 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.**

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.**

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.**



## New Testament Reading

[Reader: Evelyn Lynch]

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

John 18:37-38

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

## Father Long Before Creation

Music: Andrew Osenga; Lyrics: Chinese Hymn

*Verse*

Fa-ther, long be - fore cre - a - tion \_ Thou hadst cho-sen us \_ in love, \_

and that love so \_ deep, so \_ mov-ing, \_ draws us close to Christ a-bove. \_

*Chorus*

Still it keeps us, still it keeps us \_ firm-ly fixed in Christ a-lone. \_

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and his covenant through all ages will remain.

God's own children, God's own children

Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee we will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb;  
Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb.

## **Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 7:1-24

And the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. <sup>2</sup>You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. <sup>3</sup>But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, <sup>4</sup>Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. <sup>5</sup>The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them." <sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. <sup>7</sup>Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

<sup>8</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>9</sup>"When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" <sup>10</sup>So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. <sup>11</sup>Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. <sup>12</sup>For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their

staffs. <sup>13</sup>Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

<sup>14</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup>Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. <sup>16</sup>And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness.'" But so far, you have not obeyed. <sup>17</sup>Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. <sup>18</sup>The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.'" <sup>19</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'"

<sup>20</sup>Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. <sup>21</sup>And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>22</sup>But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. <sup>23</sup>Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. <sup>24</sup>And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile.

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.

# The Table

## 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 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 one of the aisles. 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 same aisle.]

## **Rock of Ages**

Lyrics: Augustus Toplady; Music: Matt McReynolds

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;  
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

# How Long?

Music & Lyrics: Isaac Wardell



1. How long? Will you turn your face a-way?  
2. How long 'til your child- ren find their rest?



How long? Do you hear us when we pray?  
How long 'til you draw them to your breast?



On and on, still we walk this pil - - grim way. How long?  
We go on, hold- ing to your pro - - mi - ses. How long?



'Til you wipe a-way the tears from eve - ry eye?



'Til we see our home de - scend - ing from the sky?



Do we wait in vain? Je- sus give us hope a- gain!

How long 'til your word will still the storm?  
How long 'til you bare your mighty arm?  
How we groan 'til you snatch us from the thorns. How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.  
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.  
Looking on, great that cloud of witnesses! How long? [Chorus]  
Amen, Jesus Come!

# 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](http://www.mpctucson.org/donate)). —>>

2024 Budget through April: \$94,951.	2023 Comparison:
2024 Giving through April: \$70,597	\$105,021

**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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.

**Women's Book Group:** For May we are reading Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout, hosted by Julie Garland (1324 N Norton Ave). Please mark your calendars for May 31 at 7pm. We hope to see you there!

### Places to Get Involved:

Refugees: Jeannette Mendoza ([jmarg2011@hotmail.com](mailto:jmarg2011@hotmail.com))

Food Pantry: Melissa McRae ([melissa.beal89@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.beal89@gmail.com))

Sunday Set Up: Frances Willberg ([frances.willberg@icloud.com](mailto:frances.willberg@icloud.com))

Children's Ministry: Annalyse Rash ([annalyse@mpctucson.org](mailto:annalyse@mpctucson.org))

Young Families Small Group: Josiah Howard ([josiah.howard1@gmail.com](mailto:josiah.howard1@gmail.com))

**Refugee Team Meeting:** June 2nd after the service. For anyone who has been involved with our refugee family or is interested in getting involved.

<p><b>Pastor:</b> Charles Garland <b>Music Director:</b> Sarah Lewis <b>Children's Director:</b> Annalyse Rash <b>RUF Staff:</b> Matt &amp; Sarah Esswein <b>RUF Intern:</b> Paige Jackson</p>
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<p>Midtown Presbyterian Church <a href="http://www.mpctucson.org">www.mpctucson.org</a> P.O. Box 40517, Tucson, AZ 85717 678.849.7918</p>
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