



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

The Sixth Sunday Of Easter

05.09.2021

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

It's like a dream, you try to remember but it's gone
Then you try to scream but it only comes out as a yawn
When you try to see the world beyond your front door
Try to figure out what all this is for
Try to see the world beyond your front door
Try to figure out what all this is for

Pinch me, pinch me, 'coz I'm still asleep
Please God, tell me, that I'm still asleep

--Ed Robertson/Steven Page

The Word

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is risen!
All: He is risen indeed!
Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.
All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Worship begins with God's call to us to worship him. We keep using the Easter greeting during all the weeks of Easter.

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 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.

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove _ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love _ and all his great -ness show!



Praise him for his no -ble deeds! _ Praise him for his match -less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro -ceeds, let earth and hea -ven a - dore, let

Chorus



earth and hea -ven a - dore! Praise the name _ of Christ, cel - e -



brate _ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord _ of life!



We'll sing the sto -ry of hon -or and glo -ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
We'll sing the story of honor and glory, and praise the name!
[Chorus]

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

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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]

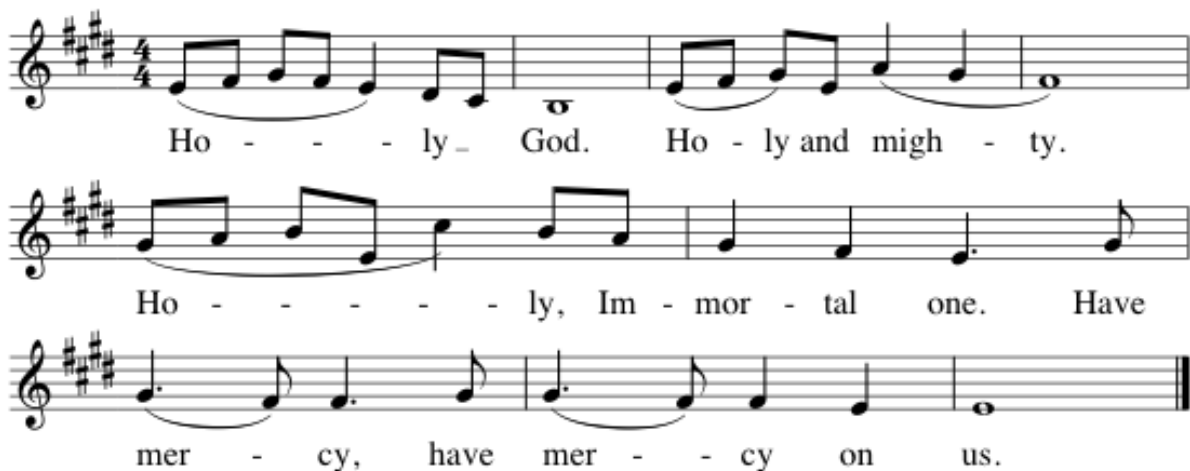
Holy Father, forgive us.

Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable.

Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

[You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.]

Trisagion



Ho - - - ly - God. Ho - ly and might - ty.

Ho - - - - ly, Im - mor - tal one. Have

mer - - cy, have mer - - cy on us.

Music: Fernando Ortega

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William Runyan; Lyrics: Thomas Chisholm



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fath - er;



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;



Thou chang - est not, thy comp - pas - sions they fail not;



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Nick Dunlap]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, especially where
there is war, and for the unity of the body of
Christ, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our world.)

For our nation, the President and all whom we have trusted with the
leadership of our country, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for our nation's leaders.)

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.

For this gathering of the faithful at Midtown Presbyterian, as well as those gathering together in worship throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for the church.)

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

And now hear us as we pray as our Savior taught us, saying:

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: Melissa McRae]

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Let This Heart Not Wander

Lyrics & Music: Eric J. Marshall

Let my eyes see no-thing, let my eyes see no-thing but your
glo-ry, my Lord. _ Let my eyes see no-thing, let my
eyes see no-thing but your glo-ry, my Lord. _

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

May I always linger, May I always linger,
In your presence, my Lord. (repeat)

I will ever praise you, I will ever praise you,
You are worthy, my Lord. (repeat)

Let this heart not wander, Let this heart not wander,
From your mercy, my Lord. (repeat)

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 2:12-17

12I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13**And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. **14**I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

15What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." **17**And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

18For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

2:12 So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. **13**Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. **14**The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. **15**Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. **16**For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring

remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! ¹⁷So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

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

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 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!**

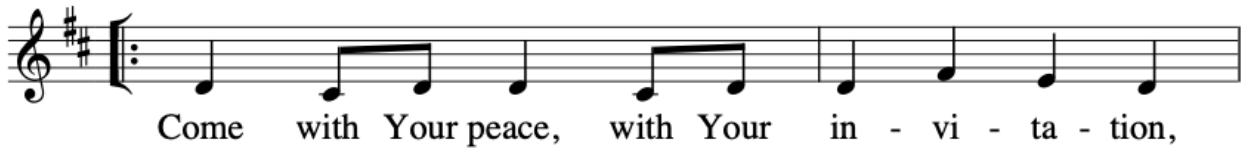
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 red cups have wine and the grape juice is white/gold.]

Trinity Song

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken



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]

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.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, May 30, from 9:00-10:30 on the McReynold’s patio (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:00 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner. Also there will be a pool party afterwards at the McRaes, guests should bring a side, drink, or dessert. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided (409 E Lester St.).

Women’s Sermon Discussion: Saturday mornings @ 10:00 at Dana McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). We’ll discuss the Ecclesiastes sermons referring to Charles’ sermons and William Price’s book As Far As the Curse is Found.

May Book Groups: The men are reading Identity - Demand for dignity and politics of resentment by Francis Fukuyama, and meeting on Tuesday, May 11th at 7pm at the McReynolds home (1241 E. Sobre Lomas). The women are reading The Wednesday War, by Gary Schmidt and meeting on May 14th at 7pm at Cara Scott’s home (2839 E Vespers Pl, Tucson, AZ 85716).

Nursery Volunteers: Olivia would like to have a few more people on the nursery volunteer list to lighten the load on us all. You’ll need to do a background check, which she can help you with. Please let Olivia, or Josiah Howard know if you can help.

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

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.