



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

The Second Sunday in Advent

12.09.2018

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

Worship Note

The celebration of the season of Advent (which begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas day) dates back to the fourth century. It is a time that focuses our attention on Christ's first coming as well as his second coming when he will return to redeem all of creation and rule with all power and authority. Since we know not the day or the hour of Christ's return we are filled with both a sense of joyful expectation and humble reverence, with our spiritual focus being on lives of prayer and preparation.

Reflection

Ask any adults about heroes today and the very word elicits a surprised smile and an extended struggle to come up with some name, any name. Although they want their children to have figures to look up to, for themselves the concept has become irrelevant. Behind their skepticism there is often a certainty that...they should believe—if only they could—a nostalgia for a time when that was possible.

—Elizabeth Kastor

The Word

Call to Worship

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall, as Luke records: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

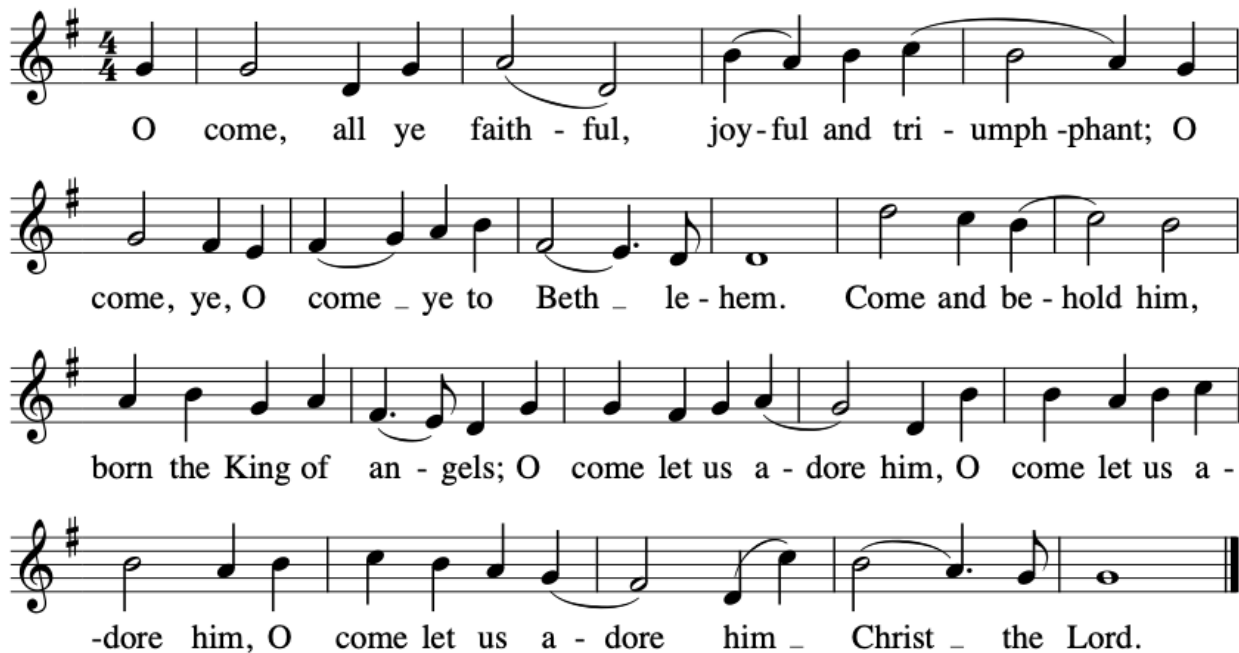
The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Music & Lyrics: John F. Wade



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - umph - phant; O
come, ye, O come - ye to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him,
born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a -
dore him, O come let us a - dore him - Christ - the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

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

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!

The Prayers of the People

(Please pray aloud together.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Father Eternal, God Almighty, you have brought forth from the root of Jesse a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

**He is your anointed one, the promised Messiah,
In him you are well pleased.**

**We come to you in his service,
To offer our prayers of intercession for the coming of
his kingdom.**

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

**We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be
faithful to her Lord, bearing witness to his reign in
every land among every people.**

(Pray for the protection and expansion of the Church in the world.)

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords.

We pray for the rulers of our nation that they might be wise, fearing the Lord to whom they must bow in the world to come.

(Pray for our political leaders.)

Father Eternal,

You have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of your people.

**We pray for those among us who suffer,
For those who are lonely,
For those without home or family,
For those who are depressed and discouraged,
For those who are seeking work,
For those who are sick,
For those who are grieving.**

(Pray for those who suffer.)

Praise, honor and glory belong to you, Eternal Father,

And to your Son, who taught us to pray 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

Hebrews 12:1-2

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

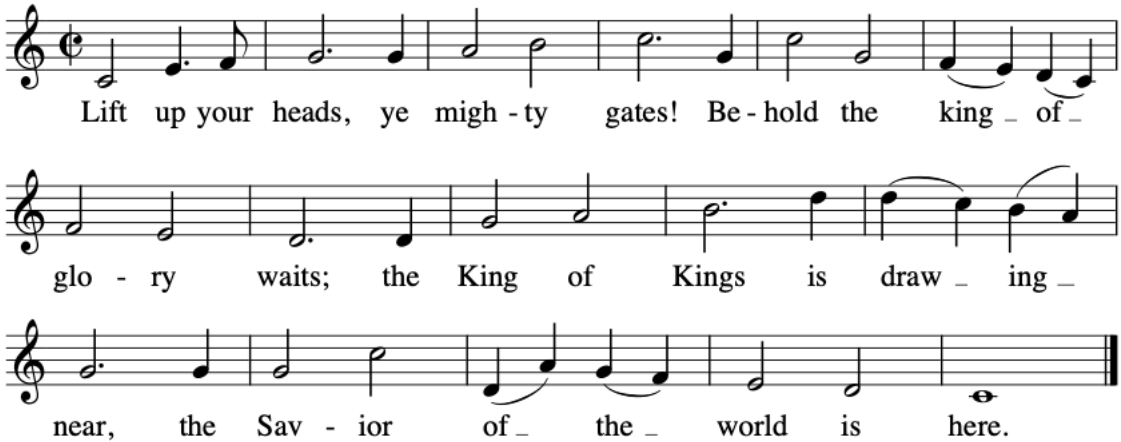
Luke 1:46-55

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lyrics: George Wiessel; Music: Thomas Williams



Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the king - of -
glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is draw - ing -
near, the Sav - ior of - the - world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and
joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on, until our glorious goal is won;
Eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Old Testament Reading

Ruth 2

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" ⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." ¹⁰ Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" ¹¹ But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" ¹³ Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. **15** When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. **16** And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. **18** And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. **19** And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."**20** And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." **21** And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" **22** And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." **23** So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

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.]

Sursum Corda

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.**

Words of Institution

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 provide individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free wafers in the tray at the front. We partake in the Supper by intinction, that is, we dip the bread into the cup. Children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ nor been admitted to the Table are encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing.]

What Child Is This?

Lyrics: William C. Dix; Music: Greensleeves



What child is this who laid to rest; on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing? Whom



an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep herds watch are keep-ing?



This, this _ is Christ the King, whom shep-hards guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste _ to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Ma - ry.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross he bore for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music: Lewis Redner; Lyrics: Phillip Brooks

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - ham, how still we see thee lie. A -
bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by. Yet
in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. The
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Benediction

Silent Prayers During Communion

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed): Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, you have called me to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Notes

Offering: We have placed an offering box in the back of the nave that you can use as you enter or leave, or as you come to communion. You can also give online at our website www.mpctucson.org.

Email List: Please sign up for our email list on the table in the back. We send out the bulletin and announcements every week before worship and would love to include you.

Women4Truth Conference: Aimee Byrd speaking at New Valley Church in Chandler, February 23rd. Sign up at www.women4truth.com

Women's Christmas Brunch: December 15, 10:00 am, at Julie Garland's home (1324 N Norton Ave).

Graduation celebration for Stephanie Bowyer: December 15, 5:00 pm. Kids and families welcome. 10241 N Hardage Ln, Oro Valley AZ 85737. Text RSVP to: Brittany Smith at 903-360-0266

Christmas Eve Service: We will meet here on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. for a Lessons and Carols service

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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