



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday in Advent

12.11.2022

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

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen

The Word

Call to Worship—

Lighting of the Shepherd's Candle

The first candle in the Advent wreath, the Prophet's Candle, reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come.

The second candle, the Peace Candle, reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall.

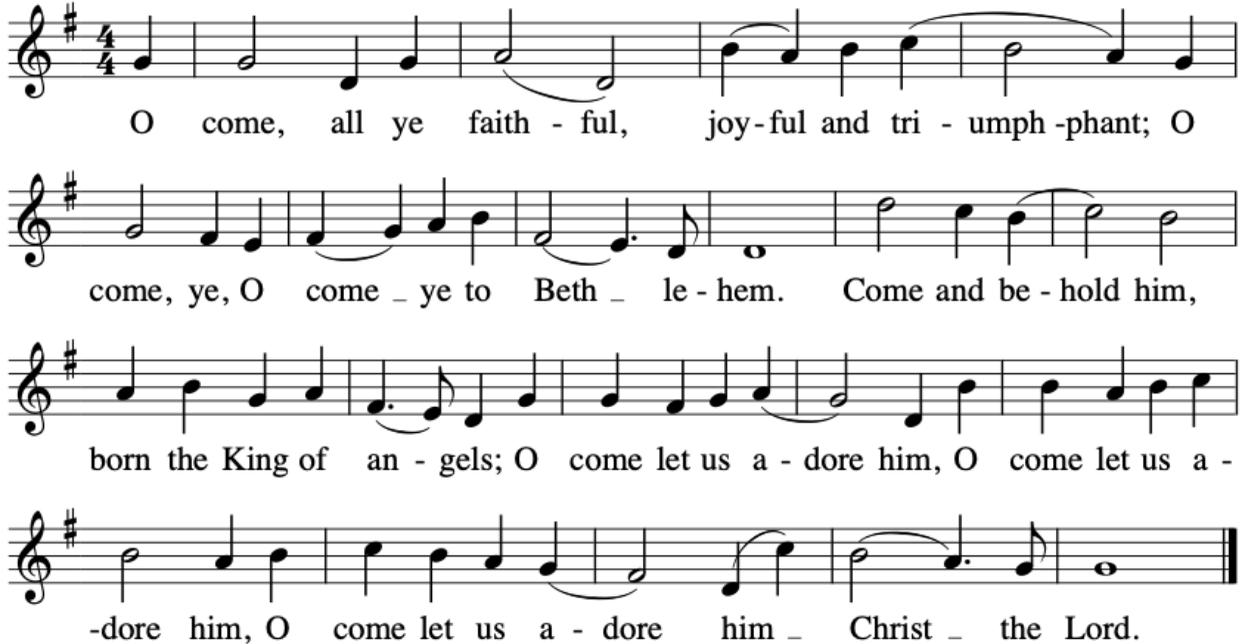
The third candle reminds us of the joy of the shepherds as they heard the good news of Jesus' arrival, for: "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:20).

As we light the Shepherd's Candle we remember that it wasn't the rich and famous who came to worship Jesus that first Christmas Eve, but poor shepherds. Through Jesus Christ, God invites us, as his children, those who are "poor in spirit," to come into His presence and worship 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

Luke 1:51-54

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Confession of Sin

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

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68-69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

All Praise To Thee Eternal Lord

Lyrics: Martin Luther; Music: American folk tune

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

All praise to thee, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in a garb of
flesh and blood; choos - ing a man - ger
for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.

Once did the skies before Thee bow; A virgin's arms contain Thee now,
While angels, who in Thee rejoice, Now listen for Thine infant voice.

A little Child, Thou art our Guest, That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth; That we may rise to heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night To make us children of the light;
To make us, in the realms divine, Like Thine own angels round Thee shine.

All this for us Thy love hath done; By this to Thee our love is won;
For this we tune our cheerful lays, And sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Ryan Jankowski]

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.)

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.

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.**

Old Testament Reading

[Reader: Yunuen Jankowski]

Psalm 126

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

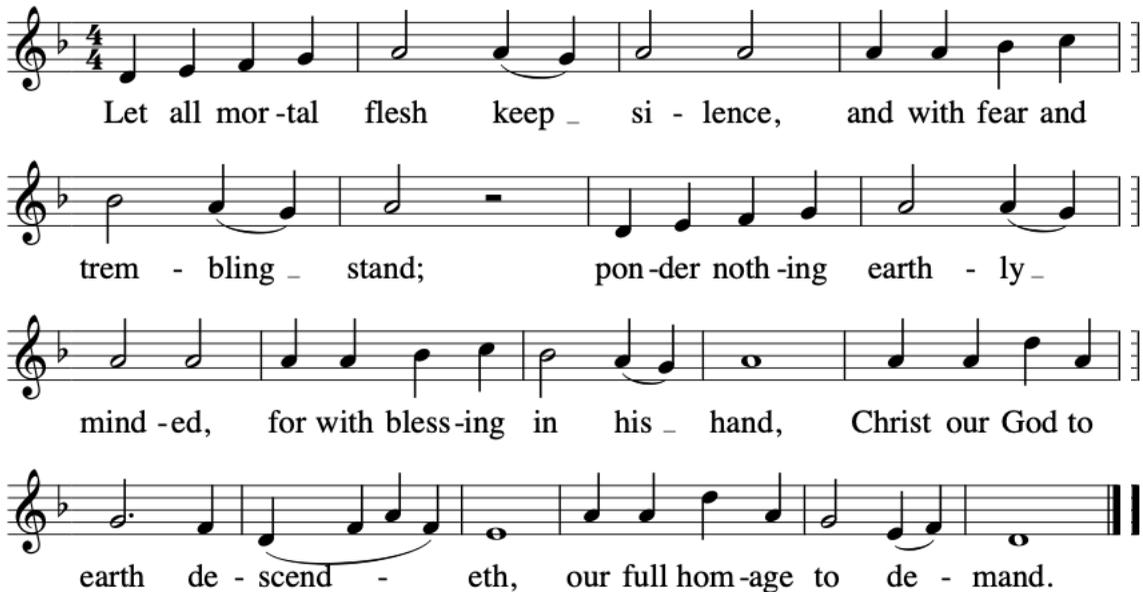
New Testament Reading

Romans 3:21-26

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Let all mor-tal flesh keep - si - lence, and with fear and
trem - bling - stand; pon-der noth-ing earth - ly -
mind -ed, for with bless-ing in his - hand, Christ our God to
earth de - scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, **47**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48**for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49**for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **50**And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52**he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53**he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **54**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55**as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

**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 the center aisle.. 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 outside aisles.]

O Day of Peace

Lyrics & Music: Carl P. Daw, Jr & Josh Garrels



1. O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small, as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our sel - fish schemes. May swords of
graze a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands; our hearts from en - vy find re -
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -



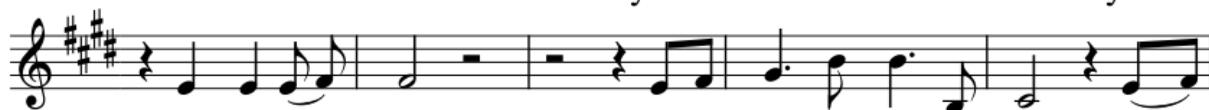
lease, 'til by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the



prom - ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the Lord.



Come to Him with all your heart. Come and lay



your bur-dens down. For peace he came to give, and



joy shall be the crown, and joy shall be the crown.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen



God rest ye mer - ry gen - tle - men let no - thing you dis - may.



Re - mem - ber Christ the Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas day.



To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone as - tray. O —



— ti - dings of com - fort and joy. Com - fort



and joy. O - ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. [Refrain]

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find. [Refrain]

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). ----->>>

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.

Men's Book Study for December: December 13th at the McReynold's home at 7:00 pm. We'll be discussing The Heart of Christ by Thomas Goodwin. Join us!

Christmas Carol Sing: join us for a night of singing classic Christmas songs together. The event will be outside at the McReynolds home ([1241 E Sobre Lomas](#)) on December 17 at 7pm. We'll have hot drinks, but feel free to bring other drinks or snacks.

Afghani Dinner Boxes Next Sunday Night: After the service next Sunday, an Afghani Christian family from the Vineyard will be serving us boxed dinners to eat there or take with us. The suggested cost is \$12/per meal. Pay what you can and the church will make up whatever we need to. They are raising money for the relief of Afghani and Pakistani believers this Christmas.

Congregational Meeting: We'll have a congregational meeting after church on January 8th to present the budget and talk about plans for the coming year.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Brandi Fenton Park: 5:00 pm at the Pavilion at the west end of the Park. Enter at the intersection of E River Rd and Alvernon; the Pavilion is down on the right.

Christmas Day Service: We will meet at 5:00 a the Vineyard. We will have a whole family service that day (no nursery) that accommodates the little ones, too.