



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
02.04.2024

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

Reflection

The command Be ye perfect is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command. He said (in the Bible) that we were 'gods' and He is going to make good His words. If we let Him—for we can prevent Him, if we choose—He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful, but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said.

—C.S. Lewis

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 57:9-11

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

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.

The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

In the Gloria Patri we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries in this ancient (cf. 380 AD) song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

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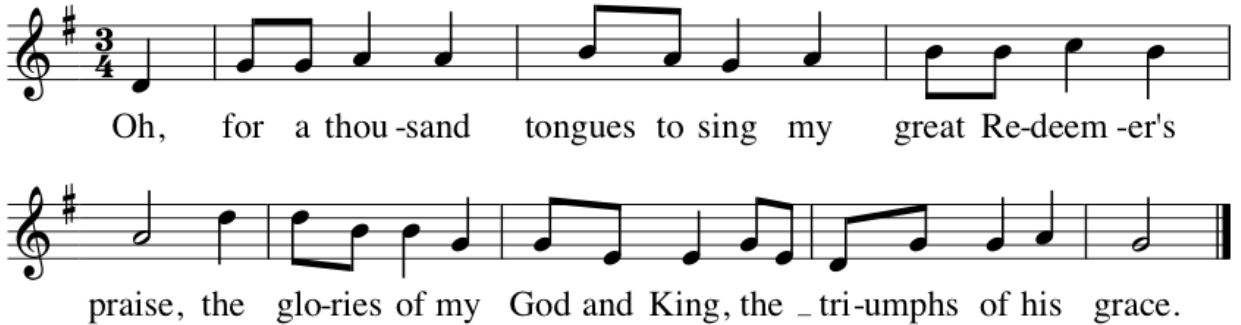
Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er

10

shall be, world with-out end. A - men, 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

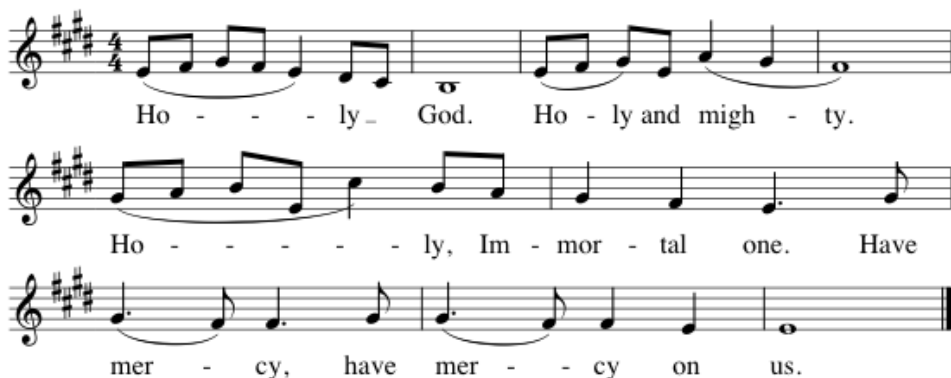
[Pray aloud together]

Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls. 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.

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!

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice



O love that will not let me go I rest
my wear - y soul in Thee. I give Thee back
the life I owe that in Thine o - cean depths
its flow may rich - er ful - ler be.

O Light, that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day, may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be.

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Dave Adams]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you
commanded the apostles to go into the entire world
and preach the gospel to every person.

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.

Grant everyone you have called into your church a ready will to obey
your word.

Fill us with a hearty desire to make you known.

(Pray for a God-given desire to tell others about Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up workers to join you in your work in our city and the world.

Give them your Spirit and prosper their work.

(Pray for all those who labor for the spread of the kingdom.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those within this church who seek to serve our children.

May our children follow you all of their lives.

(Pray for all of the children of Midtown Presbyterian.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on the many people who do not know you.

Have mercy on those who are like sheep without a shepherd.

(Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And teach us to pray as You taught Your disciples 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: Frances Willberg]

Psalm 89:46-48

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36-43

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)

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body

must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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.]

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 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.]

Behold

Lyrics & Music: Taylor Leonhardt



1. The emp - ty filled, the wound - ed healed, — the brok - en back to - geth - er,
2. The lost _ re - turn, the voice - less heard, — the mourn - er now re - joic - ing.



The poor _ are blessed, the wear - y rest, _ we will dance for - ev - er.
The moun - tains shake, the world a - wake, _ cre - a - tion all com - pos - ing.

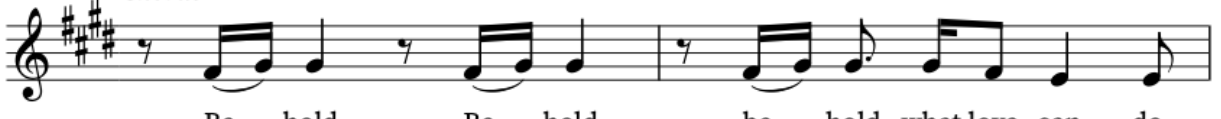


The blind - ed see, _ the chained are free, _ the doubt - ful now be - liev - er.
The sad _ un - true, the earth re - newed, _ the song has found its sing - er.



The out - cast known, the or - phan home, — You are my Re - deem - er.
The dark - ness light, the dead a - live, — You are my Re - deem - er.

Chorus



Be - hold, Be - hold, be - hold what love can do.



Be - hold, Be - hold, He's mak - ing all things new.

Bridge



We've been struck down, we're not de - stroyed. We've sown in tears, we'll reap in joy.

We Will Feast In the House of Zion

Lyrics and Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a key signature change from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: "We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther, We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up."

We will feast in the house of Zi - on! We will sing with our
hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - ge - ther,
We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be
burned by the fire: He is the Lord our God. We are not con-
sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tect-ed, ga - thered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the Faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom!

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.

Super Bowl Party: February 11th after church at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave.). The game starts at 4:30pm and church starts at 5:00pm. We will record the game and start it when we gather after church (around 6:45 presumably). Invite friends if you want to.

Ash Wednesday Service: We will meet at 5pm on 2/14 here at the Vineyard for our Ash Wednesday service. It is a short penitential service with imposition of ashes (a Biblical sign of repentance) at the end. The service lasts about 30 minutes (in case you have Valentines plans.)

Men's Book Group: We'll meet on Tuesday, 2/13 at 7pm at the McReynolds' (1241 E Sobre Lomas). The book this month is C.S. Lewis's The Four Loves.

Pastor: Charles Garland
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
Nursery Director: Sami Skaare
RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein
RUF Intern: Paige Jackson

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