



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
10.10.2021

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

This solid assurance of the victory of God's kingdom is meant to bring a contagious certainty to the people of God, people so often squashed under the arrogant heels of earth's kingdoms and rulers. Such an immovable dogma puts iron in their intestines and nerve in their spirits as they walk through the disappointments of life and the reverses of history. They never totally despair because they know that Jesus Christ is not only the 'faithful witness' and the 'firstborn of the dead' but the 'ruler of the kings of the earth'.

—Dale Ralph Davis

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 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.

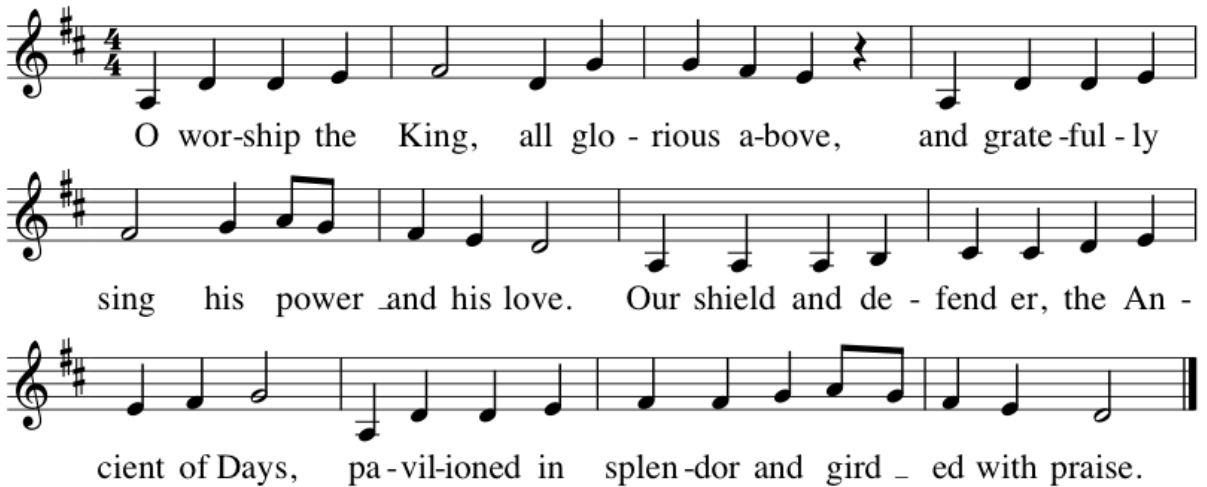
The Gloria Patri

Music: Charles Meineke

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

Lyrics: Robert Grant; Music: Johann Haydn



O wor-ship the King, all glo - rious a-bove, and grate-ful - ly
sing his power and his love. Our shield and de - fend er, the An -
cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Prayer of Invocation

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.

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.

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!

Solid Rock

Music & Lyrics: David Isaac Rivers



My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and



right-ous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain



On Christ, the so-lid rock, I ____ stand; all o-ther ground is _



sand, is sink-ing sand. On Christ, the so - lid rock, I ____



_stand; all o-ther ground is _ sand, is sink-ing sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil,
My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
And faultless stand before the throne,
And faultless stand before the throne. [Refrain]

The Prayers of the People

[Led by Rebekah Taylor]

[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.

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.

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 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

Revelation 11:15-19

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Psalm 126

Music: Issac Wardell



1. Our mouths they were filled, filled _ with laugh - ter.
2. The na - tions will say: "He has done great things!"



Our tongues they were loosed, loosed _ with joy.
the na - tions will sing songs _ of joy.



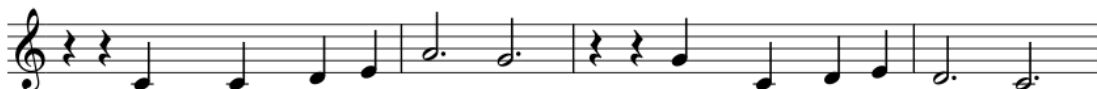
Re-store us, O Lord. Re-store us O Lord.



Although we are weep-ing. Lord help us keep sow - ing



the seeds of your King-dom for the day you will reap _ them.



Your sheaves we will car - ry. Lord please do not tar - ry.



All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of joy.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 2:31-49

³¹ "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³² The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶ "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.

³⁷ You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. ³⁹ Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. ⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in

marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. ⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." ⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Nick Davis

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

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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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!**

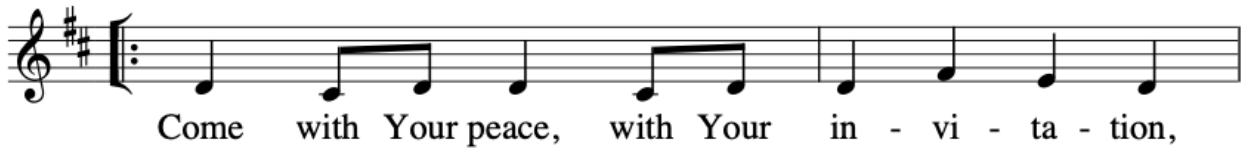
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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



His Kingdom Now Has Come

—Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Leslie Jordan, Lorenzon Baylor. Brian Nhira

VERSE



The light shines (the light shines) in the dark - ness (in the dark-ness) and the



dark-ness can-not o - ver come. (And the dark-ness can-not o - ver-come.)

REFRAIN



Be - hold! Be-hold! His king-dom now — has come! —

The valleys (the valleys) will be lifted (will be lifted),
and the mountains will be brought down low
(and the mountains will be brought down low.)

The valleys (the valleys) will be lifted (will be lifted),
and the mountains will be brought down low
(and the mountains will be brought down low.)

Behold, behold! His kingdom now has come!

Hear the voice cry (hear the voice cry)
from the highway (from the highway),
"Make way for the Prince of Peace!"
(Won't you make way for the Prince of Peace?)

Hear the voice cry (hear the voice cry)
from the highway (from the highway),
"Make way for the Prince of Peace!"
(Won't you make way for the Prince of Peace?)

Behold, behold! His kingdom now has come!

God of Justice (God of Justice), righteous Judge (righteous Judge),
Behold, behold, behold!
Our Defender (our Defender), Prince of Peace (Prince of Peace),
Behold, behold, behold!

Father to the fatherless (Father to the fatherless),
our strong Deliverer (our strong Deliverer),
Behold, behold, behold!

He's troubling the water (troubling the water)
and we're marching through:

Behold, behold! His kingdom now has come!
Behold! Behold! His kingdom now has 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. (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.

Prayer before the service: The youth room which opens off of the playground will be open for silent prayer from 4:30- 5:00. Contact Julie Garland (678) 849-8401, if you have any questions.

Monday Soccer: Monday at 5:30 at the U of A Mall.

Interested in welcoming Refugees? Speak with Julie Garland about plans we are making to help.

RUF Front Porch Bible Study: Tuesdays @8:00pm at Koffler 216.

Welcome Nick & Janet Davis: Nick is coming to serve us part time at Midtown as a Minister in Residence. He will be helping us organize the systems and programs of the church to help make room for new people to come and get connected here. Nick is an Anglican minister (ACNA), and he and Janet have two boys, Dallas (2) and Elgin (6 mo.). We will have a **Sonoran hotdog reception** in the courtyard after the service, so stay a greet the Davises!

Pastor: Charles Garland
Minister in Residence: Nick Davis
Music Director: Sarah Lewis
RUF Staff: Dan & Brittany Smith
RUF Interns: Noah Hamstra &
Rebekah Taylor

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