



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
07.18.2021

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

The whole of life itself expresses the blues. That's why I always say the blues are the true facts of life expressed in words and song, inspiration, feeling and understanding. The blues can be about anything pertaining to the facts of life. The blues call on God as much as a spiritual song do.

--Willie Dixon

Some of the greatest blues music is some of the darkest music you've ever heard.

--Bruce Springsteen

Young people have forgotten to cry the blues. Now they talk and get lawyers and things.

--Big Bill Broonzy

This is something I think that blues music, or folk music, and all those particular genres that have a perspective about life deal with - where the difficulties of life are seen as something that are very natural and nothing to be embarrassed about, and something that we all go through; something that's part of our share of humanity. And it accepts those difficulties and pain as such. I think there's a wonderful forgiveness that can come over you, if you have that perspective on it.

--Joan Osborne

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 111:2-5

- Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
- ³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.
- ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

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

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

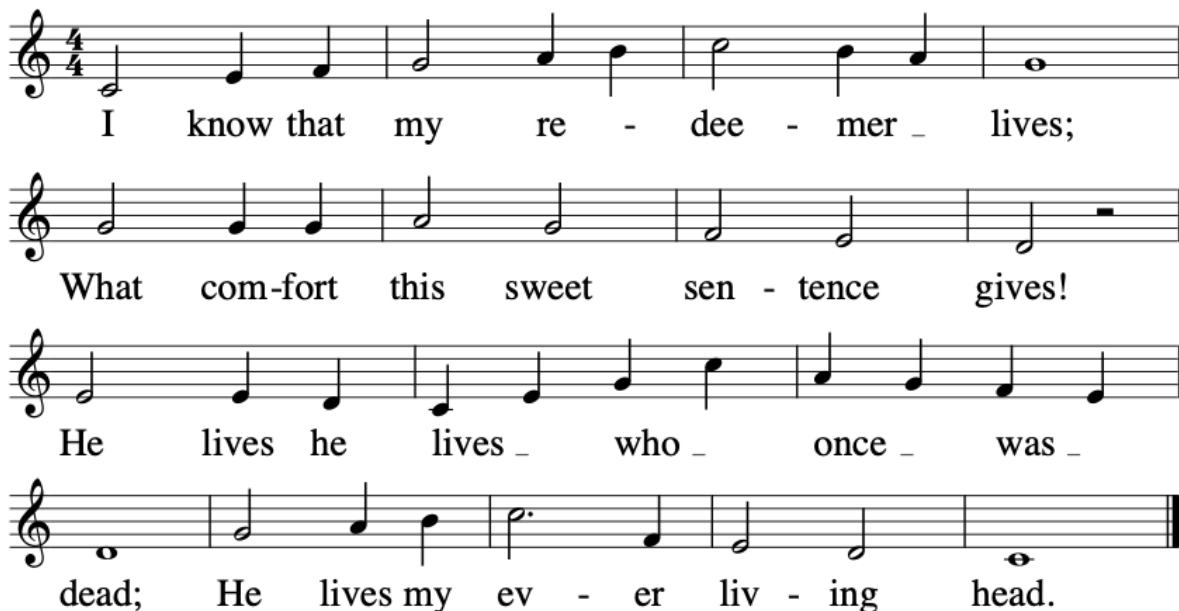
6 Ghost. As it was in the be - gin- ing, is now, and ev - er

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

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.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lyrics: Samuel Medley; Music: John Hatton



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'I Know That My Redeemer Lives'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with lyrics written below each staff. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'I know that my re - dee - mer - lives; What com-fort this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives he lives - who - once - was - dead; He lives my ev - er liv - ing head.'

He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives and I shall conquer death;
He lives and while I live I'll sing, He lives my prophet, priest, and king.

He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save,
What joy this bless'd assurance gives; I know that my redeemer lives.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5-6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Confession of Sin

[Pray aloud together]

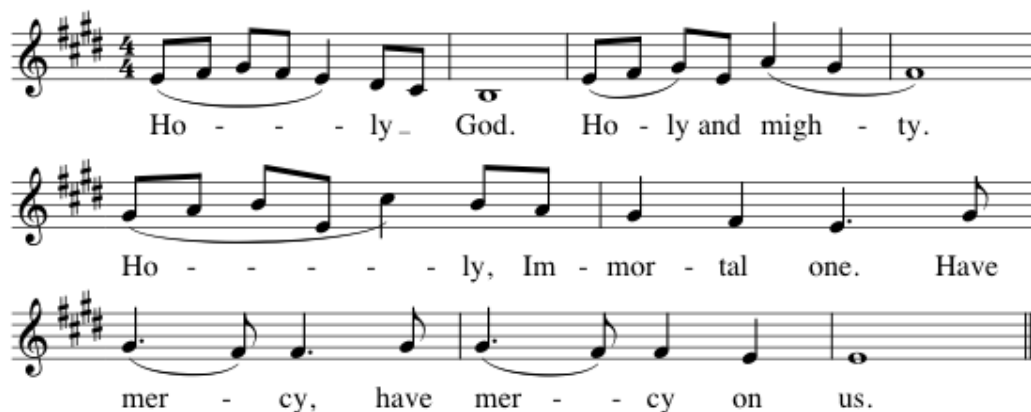
Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; And free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

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

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.

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

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!

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.

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

--Lyrics: Joseph Scriven; Music: Charles Converse



What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.



O what peace we of-ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
Jesus, Savior, is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Blessed Savior, you have promised, all our burdens you will bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to you in earnest prayer.
Soon, in glory bright unclouded, face to face it is our prayer!
Joyful praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.

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.

Dear God, help us love your ways.

May we trust that following you is best for us even when we must deny ourselves.

(Please pray silently for our struggle against sin.)

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.

Help us love our families and friends.

Provide opportunity for reconciliation where needed, and may we not take for granted those who are close.

(Please pray silently for wholeness in our relationships.)

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

Help us love our enemies.

May we seek to live peaceably with all people.

(Please pray silently for peace.)

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

Help us love our city.

May we care for the poor, oppressed, and lonely.

(Please pray silently that we would be a blessing to our city.)

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

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we love you and thank you that you have made your life with us.

Help us to see and understand that without you we can do nothing. May we grow in our dependence, trust, and faith.

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

**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: Stephanie Bowyer]

1 Peter 1:13-19

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 7:24-27

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

The Lord is King

Music & Lyrics: Nathan Partain

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth and all ye heav'ns re -
joyce. From world to world, the joy shall ring, - "The Lord om -

Chorus

ni - po-tent is King! Sing his praise! Sing his Praise! - Lord of
Lords, An-cient of days; Sing his praise! Sing his
Praise! - All your - days, all your - days.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lord is King'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. The first system contains the first two lines of the verse. The second system contains the first line of the chorus, which is marked 'Chorus'. The third system contains the second line of the chorus. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees, or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! Bow down you must;
The judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways, Let every creature sing his praise.

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. ² It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

⁵ It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. ⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

⁷ Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

⁸ Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

¹⁰ Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun. ¹² For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

¹³ Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked? ¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

¹⁵ In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. ¹⁶ Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your

time? **18** It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

19 Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

21 Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. **22** Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.

23 All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. **24** That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

25 I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. **26** And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. **27** Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things— **28** which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. **29** See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

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.]

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.]

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]

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff continues: C4 (half), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes). The third staff continues: F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (half), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes). The fourth staff continues: F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (half), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (half).

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.

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: We have a few people meet to pray silently for the worship service and for the mission of the church from 4:30-4:45 in the youth room off of the playground behind the church. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Midtown Institute: Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, August 8th, from 9:00-10:30 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

Hootenanny: This Saturday night at 7:00 at the McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). Bring a snack or drinks, some songs prepared to play, or just come sing and listen. Talent level is very low.

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.