



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

09.02.2018

Welcome to Worship at Midtown!

We are just starting our corporate worship services, and are really glad to have you with us. 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

—Robert Rayburn

The church's liturgy reminds believers Lord's Day by Lord's Day of the true cosmic order which they are always forgetting about. We come into this sanctuary and kneel before God, the ruler of the kings of the earth. There is no such act anywhere else in our public life or the life of our culture, no such confession of the absolute sovereignty of God or his eternal purpose and power. We confess our sins and pray for their forgiveness and so are impressed again with the moral nature of human life and of what really matters to the judgment of a life by the one who will eventually bring that life into judgment. This too is an act unparalleled in our public life. We read the law of God and realize afresh that we must accept, like it or not, that there is an order that has been imposed upon human life by its maker and that we are required to live in obedience to that order. That too is a unique practice. We sing in joyful praise to acknowledge that God, the Living God, the unseen but very real God, the maker of heaven and earth and the Lord of *all* things, has revealed himself to us, made himself known as our heavenly Father, that he has granted us salvation, that a glorious future awaits us because of what he has done for us and promised to us. None of this, not a shred of this reality is embodied in any other public acts that we perform in this American world of ours. That is what makes Christian worship so important and what makes it so essential that our worship actually embody the reality that God has revealed to us.

Reflection

And from that City from which we have come on pilgrimage, letters have arrived for us: these are the Scriptures.

—St. Augustine

The Word

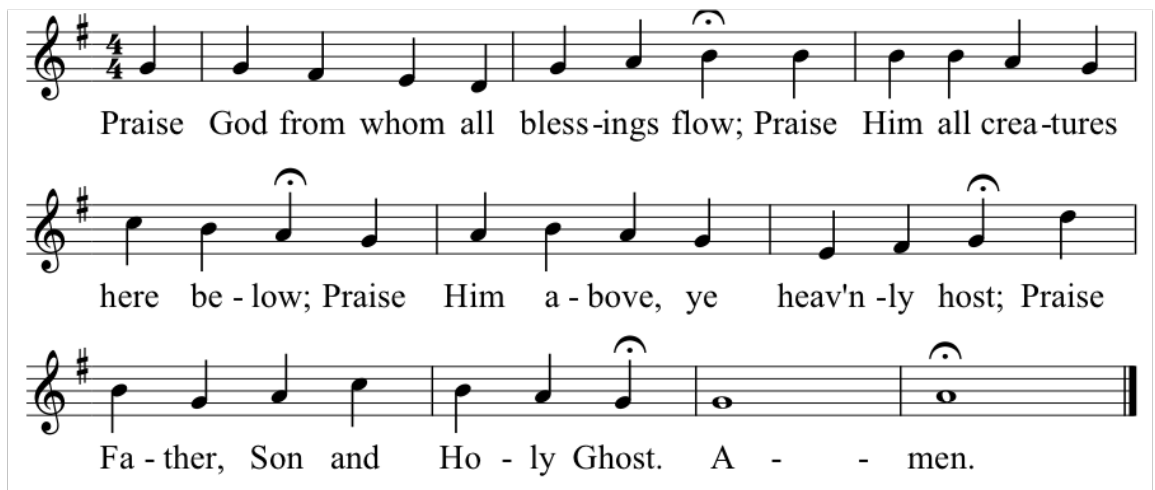
Call to Worship

Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise
Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - - men.

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Lyrics: William Moore; Music: Bruce Benedict



Praise the Sav-ior now and ev-er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;



pros-trate ly-ing, suf-f'ring, dy-ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.



Vic-t'ry gain-ing, life ob - tain - ing now in - glo-ry he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
He is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever
Unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 43:22,24

You have not called upon me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel...You have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

Confession of Sin

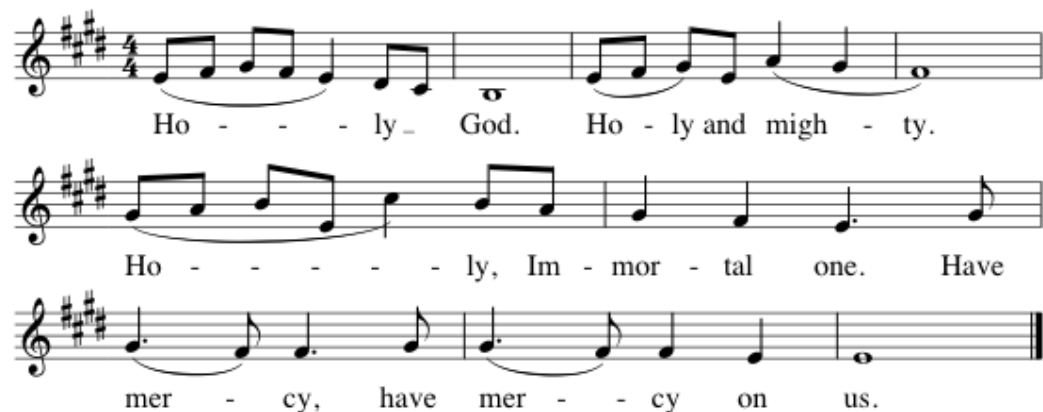
Please pray aloud together

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.

You are invited to confess your sins to God 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

Isaiah 43:25

I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

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?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
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

(Please pray the italicized portions aloud together.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,

We ask for grace and wisdom.

(Pray for those who minister the gospel.)

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,

We ask for your faithful love.

(Pray for the unbelieving.)

For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask for your guidance.

(Pray for our leaders.)

For people who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

(Pray for the suffering.)

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words He taught us, 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

Psalm 1:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-8

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ
People: *Praise be to you, O Christ*

Lord I Need You

Music & Lyrics: Daniel Carson, Matt Maher, Christy Nockles, Jesse Reeves, & Kristan Stanfill

Lord, I come, I con - fess. Bow-ing here, I find my
rest. And with-out you, - I fall a - part. You're the
Chorus
one that guides my heart. Lord, I need you, Oh, I need you.
Ev - 'ry hour I need you. My one de-fense,
my right - eous-ness, Oh, God, how I need - you.

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
Where you are, Lord, I am free,
Holiness is Christ in me!

New Testament Reading

Revelation 1:1-11

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Table

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.]

The Lamb Has Overcome

Lyrics & Music: Luke Morton

VERSE



The Lamb has o-ver - come, the Lamb has o-ver - come. The



bat-tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, the Lamb has o-ver - come.

CHORUS



Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his



name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain. Glo-ry be un-to his name!

No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down.
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound,
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he.
Our Perfect Plea, how he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he.

Chorus

The table now is spread, the table now is spread
This wine and bread broken body and blood shed
The table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear,
The day is drawing near.

Chorus

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Lyrics: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, and 14. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

4 On Jor - dan's stor - my ba-nks I stand and
7 cast a wish-ful eye, to Can - aan's fair and
11 hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie. I am bound, I am
14 bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd. I am
bound, I am bound, I am bound for Prom-ised La - nd.

All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful
shore; Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

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 Taking Communion: Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the Joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. 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.

Soccer on the UA Mall

Some folks are getting together for a friendly soccer game Monday night at 6:00 on the Campbell side of the UA mall. Ask Stephen Lewis or Matt McReynolds for details, or just show up. Everyone is welcome.

Living Spot Needed

Our new RUF Campus Intern, Erin Fitzpatrick, is looking for a place to stay this year. She either needs a roommate situation with another post-grad, a room in a family home near campus, or a workable apartment situation. If you have a good idea let Erin (or Brittany or Dan) know. Thanks!

Tucson Women's Conference

All of the PCA churches in Tucson are joining together for this conference, and Rondi Lauterbach will be the speaker.

From Empty to Full: Living in the Plenty of Christ

Friday, 9/14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, 9/15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Buffet style lunch provided

Registration:\$30 (scholarships available)

Payment can be made during registration or on-line at the DSPC website.

Midtown Presbyterian Church

www.mpctucson.org

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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