



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

03.03.2024

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

When you come to humiliation, you are humbled, because you have sinned against God. But how do you present this God to your own soul? Do you present him as Judge only, or has a Father also? Luther said this: when my heart is brisk and jolly, I present God unto myself under the notion of his greatness: but when my heart is low, and fearing, then I present God to myself under the notion of his goodness. Sometimes I consider Christ as my example, sometimes as my gift. When my heart is too high, then I consider Christ as my example; when my spirit is too low, I consider Christ as given to me.

—William Bridge

The Word

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.

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.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first five measures of the melody, with lyrics 'Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly'. The second staff contains the next six measures, with lyrics 'Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ing, is now, and ev - er'. The third staff contains the final five measures, with lyrics 'shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.' Measure numbers 6 and 10 are indicated at the start of the second and third staves respectively.

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.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Music & Lyrics: Robert Robinson

5 Come, thou fount of ev'-ry bles-sing, tune my heart to sing thy
9 grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est
12 praise. Teach me - some me - lo-dious - son - net sung by -
15 fla - ming toun-ges a - bove. Praise the mount, I'm fixed up -
pon it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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.

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.

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!

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lyrics: Reginald Heber; Music: John Dykes



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Tri - ni - ty.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who were and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

[Led by Dave Adams]

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

[Reader: Julie Garland]

1 Peter 2:23-25

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 21:15-19

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Lyrics: Walter C. Smith; Arrangement: Matt & Dana McReynolds

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Oh our God, thy great name we praise.
Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
Oh our God is goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!
Oh our God, the light hideth thee.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 3

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

O Lord, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

²many are saying of my soul,

“There is no salvation for him in God.” Selah

³But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,

my glory, and the lifter of my head.

⁴I cried aloud to the Lord,

and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

⁵I lay down and slept;

I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

⁶I will not be afraid of many thousands of people

who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷Arise, O Lord!

Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;

you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸Salvation belongs to the Lord;

your blessing be on your people! Selah

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Confession of Faith

--The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: **That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

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.

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 one of the aisles. 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 same aisle.]

Till He Come

Lyrics: Edward Henry Bickersteth; Music: Ghost of Caroline

Till he come! O let the words
Linger on the trembling chords;
Let the little while between
In their golden light be seen;
Let us think how heav'n and home
Lie beyond that "Till he come."

When the weary ones we love
Enter on their rest above,
Seems the earth so poor and vast,
All our life joy overcast?
Hush, be ev'ry murmur dumb:
It is only till he come.

Clouds and conflicts round us press:
Would we have one sorrow less?
All the sharpness of the cross,
All that tells the world is loss,
Death and darkness, and the tomb,
Only whisper "Till he come."

See, the feast of love is spread,
Drink the wine, and break the bread:
Sweet memorials, till the Lord
Call us round his heav'nly board;
Some from earth, from glory some,
Severed only till he come.

Crown Him

Music: Benji Pocta; Lyrics: Thomas Kelly

Look ye saints, — the sight is glo - rious: see the ex - alt-ed Sav-ior now;
— From the fight — re-turned vic-to - rious, ev-ery knee to him shall
bow; Crown him, crown him, — crowns be - come the Vic-tor's — brow. —

Crown the Savior! Saints adore him; Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
In the seat of power enthrone him, While the vault of heaven rings;
Crown him, crown him, Crown the Savior; King of Kings.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
Hark, those loud triumphant chords;
Jesus takes the highest station; O what joy the sight affords;
Crown him, crown him, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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.

Food Bank Serving: Our next Saturday morning at the food bank will be on March 9th. It goes from 9am-noon, and involves packing up boxes of food for them to distribute later to those in need.

Men's Book Group: Our book for March 12th is C.S. Lewis's Reflections on the Psalms. Read up!

Women's Book Group: Our March book is Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez.

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

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