



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Evening Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

03.17.2024

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**

On five occasions in history the Church has gone to the dogs, but on each occasion, it was the dogs that died.

—G.K. Chesterton

The uncomfortable reality is that, "It belongs to the very life of the people of God that it must accept again and again to have its life renewed by a new confrontation with its Lord and his holy will". The Church is the body of Christ, the temple of the living God who renews his people by his Spirit. This experience of death and new life will continue in the Church until the day when there is a new heaven and a new earth and the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

—Steve Addison

# 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

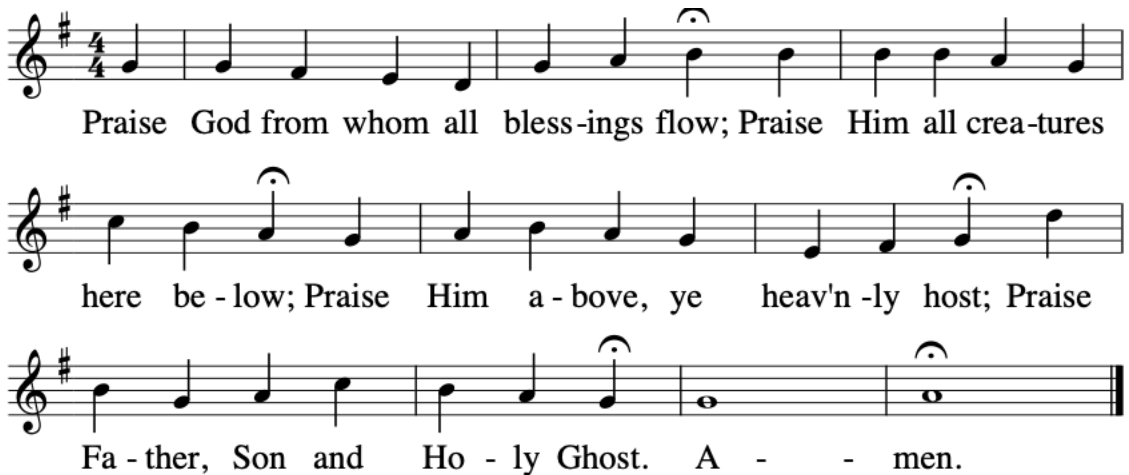
1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible,  
the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

In the Doxology we join our voices with Christians around the world and through the centuries (circa 1674) with this song of praise to the Holy Trinity.

## Doxology


Music: The Old One Hundredth



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures  
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise  
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. 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

Psalm 32:4-6

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

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

[Please pray aloud together]

**Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that his blood is our peace, his death our freedom, his smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in  
whose spirit there is no deceit.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## It Is Well With My Soul

Lyrics: Henry Lyte; Music: Bill Moore



When peace like a ri - ver at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like



sea bil-lows roll; What - e - ver my lot, thou hast taught me to



say, it is well, it is well, with my soul! It is well,



with my soul, it is well, it is well, with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control:  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

## **The Prayers of the People**

[Led by Tim Davis]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

O Lord, we cry out to you for the Church:

**We pray for the churches in Tucson  
that proclaim your gospel.**

**We pray for Redemption Church and for  
our sister churches in the Arizona  
Presbytery.**

(Pray for the church.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for all the people of the  
earth:

**We pray for those who do not know you;  
We pray that your gospel would run in our city.**

(Pray for your friends who don't yet believe the gospel.)

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.

O Lord, we cry out to you for our own nation:

**Please give President Biden humility, wisdom, and trust in you. Please bless Governor Hobbs and Mayor Romero. Please bring prosperity and peace to our city through your gospel.**

(Pray for our leaders.)

O Lord, we cry out to you for the poor and suffering of our community:

**We pray for those who are living on the streets. We pray for those who are sick and grieving. We pray for those who are discouraged and despairing.**

(Pray for those who suffer.)

O Lord we cry out to you with our individual concerns and needs:

(Pour out your heart to your Father who gives good gifts to his children.)

All of these things we ask of you in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us 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.**

## **New Testament Reading**

[Reader: Stephanie Bowyer]

Revelation 3:14-22

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



# Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30

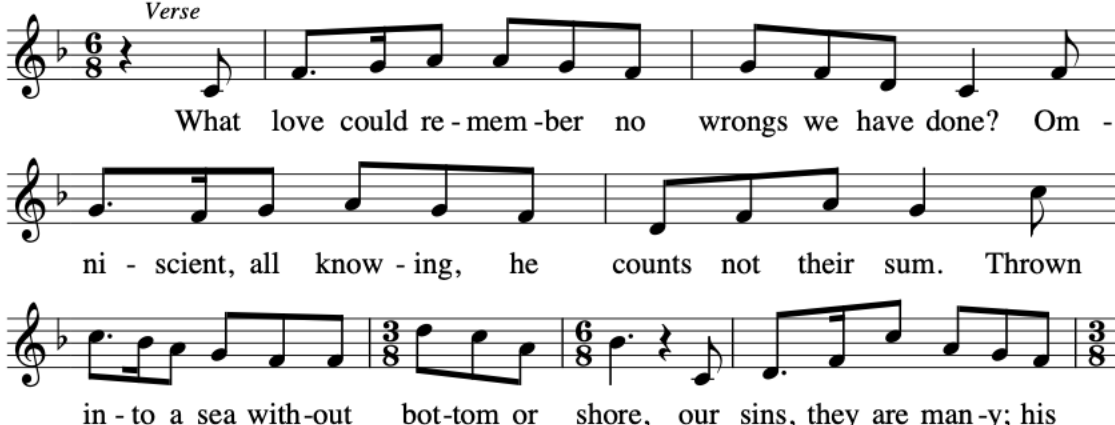
Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

## His Mercy is More

Lyrics & Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

*Verse*



What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -  
ni - scient, all know - ing, he counts not their sum. Thrown  
in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore, our sins, they are man - y; his

*Chorus*



mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord, - his mer - cy is more. \_\_\_\_  
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn. - Our  
sins, they are man - y; his mer - cy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father so tender is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;

Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more [Chorus]

## **Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 74

### **A Maskil of Asaph.**

- O God, why do you cast us off forever?  
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?
- 2** Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,  
which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!  
Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.
- 3** Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;  
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!
- 4** Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place;  
they set up their own signs for signs.
- 5** They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees.
- 6** And all its carved wood  
they broke down with hatchets and hammers.
- 7** They set your sanctuary on fire;  
they profaned the dwelling place of your name,  
bringing it down to the ground.
- 8** They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them";  
they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 9** We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet,  
and there is none among us who knows how long.
- 10** How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?  
Is the enemy to revile your name forever?
- 11** Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?  
Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!

- 12 Yet God my King is from of old,  
working salvation in the midst of the earth.
- 13 You divided the sea by your might;  
you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- 15 You split open springs and brooks;  
you dried up ever-flowing streams.
- 16 Yours is the day, yours also the night;  
you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.
- 17 You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;  
you have made summer and winter.
- 18 Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs,  
and a foolish people reviles your name.
- 19 Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts;  
do not forget the life of your poor forever.
- 20 Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land  
are full of the habitations of violence.
- 21 Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame;  
let the poor and needy praise your name.
- 22 Arise, O God, defend your cause;  
remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!
- 23 Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who  
rise against you, which goes up continually!

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

**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 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.]

# Breastplate of St. Patrick

Lyrics: St. Patrick; Music: Wendell Kimbrough, Dan Wheeler



1. When my work takes me places I don't want to go: Christ be -  
2. When I'm tossed to the side and I want to give up: Christ be -



fore me. When my heart aches with sorrow as I hit the road: Christ be  
side me. When I'm giving my all but it's never enough: Christ be-



with me. When the care of my family takes  
side me. When I work hard but someone else



all that I have: Christ within me. When I'm worn and exhausted, a -  
gets the reward; God's eyes see me. When I ask for promotion but



shamed that I'm mad: Christ defend me.  
they shut the door: God's ears hear me.

## Refrain



I rise up to-day in a strength that is not my own.



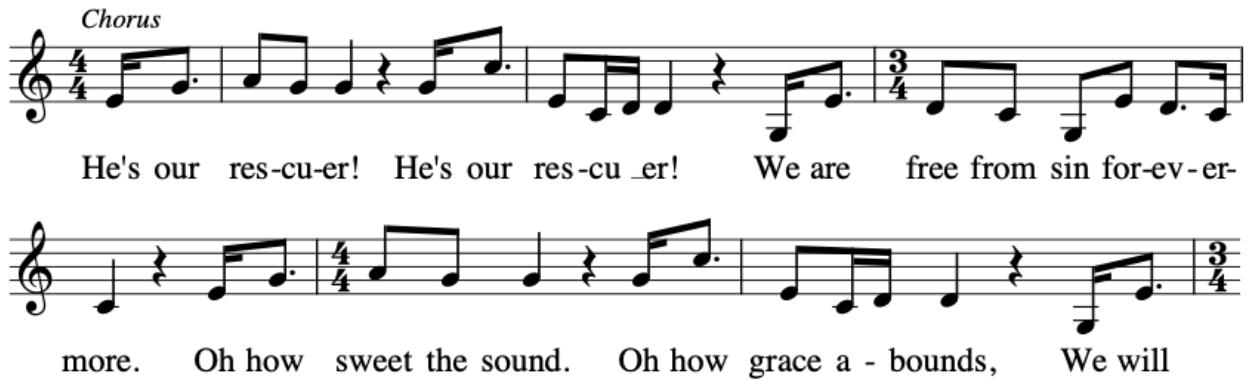
I'm held by the promise of God that I'm never alone.

When I climb the first steps toward a long-held dream: Christ above me.  
And I leap out in faith, and I hope to find wings: Christ beneath me.

# Rescuer (Good News)


Music & Lyrics: Ben Hastings, Bryan Fowler and the Rend Collective

*Chorus*



He's our res-cu-er! He's our res-cu\_er! We are free from sin for-ev-er-  
more. Oh how sweet the sound. Oh how grace a - bounds, We will

*Verse*



praise the Lord, our res-cu-er! There is good news for the cap-tive;  
good news for the shamed. There is good news for the one who walked a -  
way. There is good news for the doubt-er; the one re-li-gion failed, for the  
good Lord has come to seek and save. \_ *to Chorus*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor;  
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.  
He is pasture for the weary; rest for those who strive,  
For the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

*Bridge*

to Chorus      So come and be chain - less.      Come and be  
 fear - less.      Come to the foot      of Cal - va -  
 ry.      There is re - demp - tion,      for ev - 'ry af -  
 flic - tion.      Here at the foot      of Cal - va - ry.

## 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](http://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](mailto:charles@mpctucson.org)) to get on the list.



**Women's Book Group:** Our March book is Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. Friday, March 22, 7pm at Melissa McRae's house (409 E. Lester St).

**Good Friday Service:** We will meet at 6pm on Good Friday at the North end of Himmel Park for our Good Friday service. It will be getting dark, so bring a phone or tablet with the bulletin we will send out that week. The service is a reflection on Jesus' last words on the cross.