



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

10.31.2021

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

Real miracles bother people, like strange sudden pains unknown in medical literature. It's true: They rebut every rule all we good citizens take comfort in. Lazarus obeying orders and climbing out of the grave—now there's a miracle, and you can bet it upset a lot of folks who were standing around at the time. When a person dies, the earth is generally unwilling to cough him back. A miracle contradicts the will of earth.

My sister, Swede, who often sees to the nub, offered this: People fear miracles because they fear being changed—though ignoring them will change you also. Swede also said another thing, too, and it rang in me like a bell: No miracle happens without a witness. Someone to declare, Here's what I saw. Here's how it went. Make of it what you will.

—Leif Enger, from *Peace Like a River*

# The Word

## 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 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.

# A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Lyrics & Music: Martin Luther



A migh-ty for-tress is our God, a bul-wark ne-ver fail — ing;



Our help-er He a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail — ing; For



still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are



great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e — qual.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;  
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear for God hath willed, his truth to triumph through us  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever!

## 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.

## Confession of Sin

[Please pray aloud together]

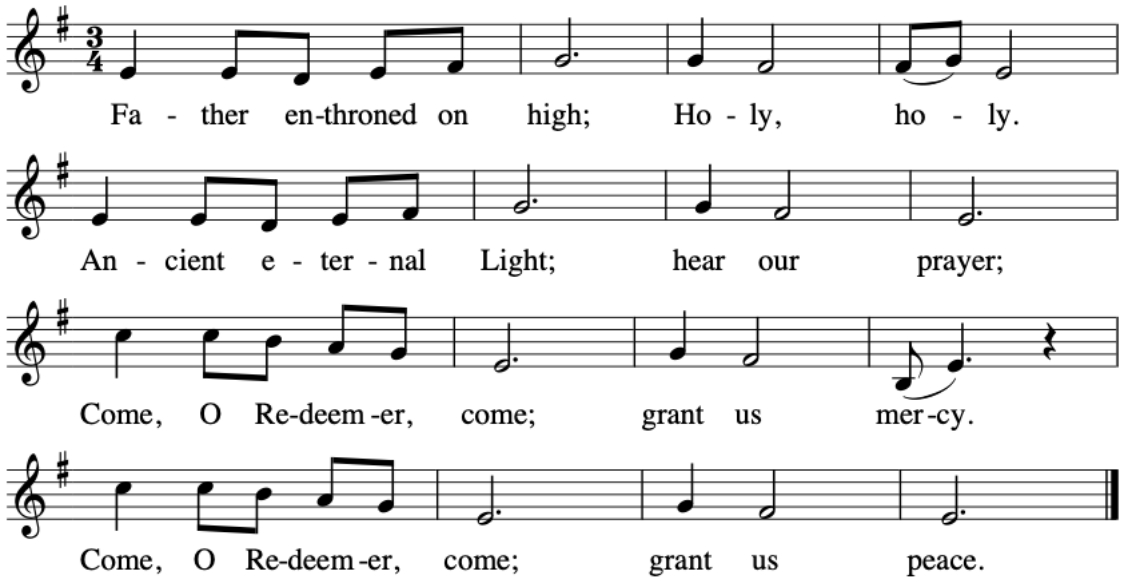
**Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that 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.**

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.

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

# Come, O Redeemer, Come

Music & Lyrics: Fernando Ortega



Fa - ther en-throned on high; Ho - ly, ho - ly.  
An - cient e - ter - nal Light; hear our prayer;  
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us mer-cy.  
Come, O Re-deem-er, come; grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving,  
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us.  
Heal us and make us free, from our sin.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

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

Psalms 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!**

# In Christ Alone

Lyrics & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

3 In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my  
6 light, my strength, my song; This cor - ner - stone, this sol-id  
9 ground, firm through the fier-cest drought and storm. What heights of  
12 love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings  
14 cease! My com - fort - er, my all in  
all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth, in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.



No guilt in life, no fear in death! This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## The Prayers of the People

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic,  
and apostolic Church,

**That we all may be one.**

(Please pray silently for the unity of the church.)

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

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully serve you.

**That your name would be honored by all people.**

(Please pray silently for the mission of the church.)

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

We pray for all who lead and guide your church

**That they may be your faithful and diligent servants.**

(Please pray silently for all who lead the church.)

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

We pray for all who hold authority in the nations of the world

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

(Please pray silently for the nations of the world.)

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

[Led by Nick Davis]

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.

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

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

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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**

[Read by Cara Scott]

1 Peter 3:15-16

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 9:9-13

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# How Long?

Music & Lyrics: Isaac Wardell



1. How long? Will you turn your face a-way?  
2. How long 'til your child- ren find their rest?



How long? Do you hear us when we pray?  
How long 'til you draw them to your breast?



On and on, still we walk this pil - - grim way. How long?  
We go on, hold- ing to your pro - - mi - ses. How long?

## Chorus



'Til you wipe a-way the tears from eve - ry eye?



'Til we see our home de - scend - ing from the sky?



Do we wait in vain? Je- sus give us hope a- gain!

How long 'til your word will still the storm?

How long 'til you bare your mighty arm?

How we groan 'til you snatch us from the thorns. How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.  
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.  
Looking on, great that cloud of witnesses! How long? [Chorus]

Amen, Jesus Come!

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Daniel 4:1-27**

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! <sup>2</sup> It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

<sup>3</sup> How great are his signs,  
how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

<sup>4</sup> I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. <sup>5</sup> I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. <sup>6</sup> So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. <sup>7</sup> Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. <sup>8</sup> At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, <sup>9</sup> “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. <sup>10</sup> The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.

<sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. <sup>12</sup> Its leaves were beautiful and

its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

**13** "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. **14** He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. **15** But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. **16** Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. **17** The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.' **18** This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

**19** Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! **20** The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, **21** whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— **22** it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. **23** And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in

the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,' <sup>24</sup> this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, <sup>25</sup> that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. <sup>26</sup> And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Charles Garland

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

(Heidelberg Catechism #60)

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.

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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.]



# Sovereign Grace O'er Sin Abounding

Lyrics: John Kent; Music: Sandra McCracken

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Sovereign Grace O'er Sin Abounding'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'Sov - ereign grace o'er sin a - bound-ing! - Ran-somed souls, their tid-ings swell: 'Tis a deep that knows no sound-ing; - Who its breadth or length can tell? On its glo-ries, - Let my - soul - - - for - e - ver dwell.'

Sov - ereign grace o'er sin a - bound-ing! - Ran-somed  
souls, their tid-ings swell: 'Tis a deep that knows no  
sound-ing; - Who its breadth or length can tell? On its  
glo-ries, - Let my - soul - - - for - e - ver dwell.

What from Christ that soul can sever, bound by everlasting bands?  
Once in Him, in Him forever; Thus th' eternal covenant stands.  
None shall take Thee from the Strength of Israel's hands.

Heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus, long ere time its race begun;  
To His name eternal praises; O what wonders love has done!  
One with Jesus, by eternal union one.

On such love, my soul, still ponder, love so great, so rich, so free;  
Say, while lost in holy wonder, why, O Lord, such love to me?  
Hallelujah! Grace shall reign. Hallelujah! Grace shall reign.  
Hallelujah! Grace shall reign eternally.

# All I Have Is Christ

Music & Lyrics: Jordan Kauflin

The image shows a musical score for the song "All I Have Is Christ" in 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first five staves are the verses, and the last two are the chorus. The lyrics are: "I once was lost in dark-est night yet thought I knew the way. The sin that prom - ised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a re-bel to your will, and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse you still. Chorus Hal - le - lu - - - jah! All I have is Christ! Hal-le - lu - - - jah! Je-sus is my life!"

I once was lost in dark-est night yet thought I knew the  
way. The sin that prom - ised joy and life had led me to the  
grave. I had no hope that you would own a re-bel to your  
will, and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse you still.

*Chorus*  
Hal - le - lu - - - jah! All I have is  
Christ! Hal-le - lu - - - jah! Je-sus is my life!

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross;  
And I beheld God's love displayed: you suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace!  
[Chorus]

Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see  
The strength to follow your commands could never come from me.  
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose  
And let my song forever be: my only boast is you. [Chorus]

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

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

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

**Nursery Volunteer Help Needed:** Our nursery is growing and we need a few more hands on deck. If you are interested/willing please tell Olivia Stowe or Josiah Howard. And if they buttonhole you about doing it, give them a chance!

**Christmas Choir:** If you have experience in four-part harmony choir singing (or a desire to learn!), you are invited to participate in a special Christmas choir that will lead the congregation in a few carols this Advent season. Let Sarah Lewis ([sarahgrimeslewis@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgrimeslewis@gmail.com)) know if you are interested and she will contact you with practice info.

**Men's and Women's joint Book Club** dinner and discussion Tuesday, Nov. 9th, 6 PM, at the McReynolds home (1241 E. Sobre Lomas). The book is *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Please RSVP to Matt or Dana McReynolds so they know how many people to prepare dinner for ([goooal13@hotmail.com](mailto:goooal13@hotmail.com) or [thesharptooth@hotmail.com](mailto:thesharptooth@hotmail.com))

**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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