



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter

05.06.2018

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

The practices of Christian worship train our love— they are practice for the coming kingdom, habituating us as citizens of the kingdom of God. Christian worship, we should recognize, is essentially a counter-formation to those rival liturgies we are often immersed in, cultural practices that covertly capture our loves and longings, mis-calibrating them, orienting us to rival versions of the good life. This is why worship is the heart of discipleship. We can't counter the power of cultural liturgies with didactic information poured into our intellects. We can't recalibrate the heart from the top down, through merely informational measures. The orientation of the heart happens from the bottom up, through the formation of our habits of desire. Learning to love (God) takes practice.

—James K. A. Smith

Reflection

Our life-long nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation.

—C.S. Lewis

The Word

Call to Worship

Psalm 62:5-8

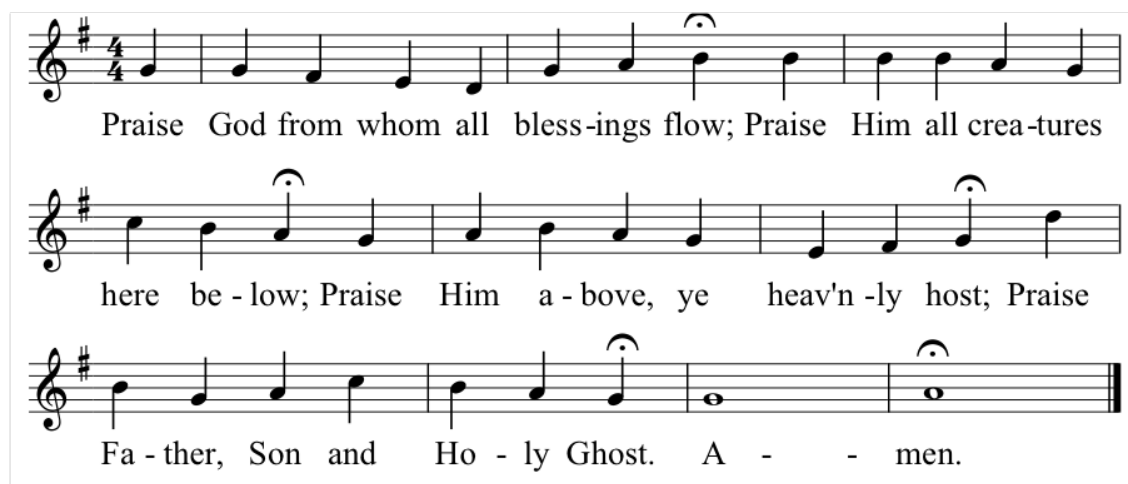
For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Doxology

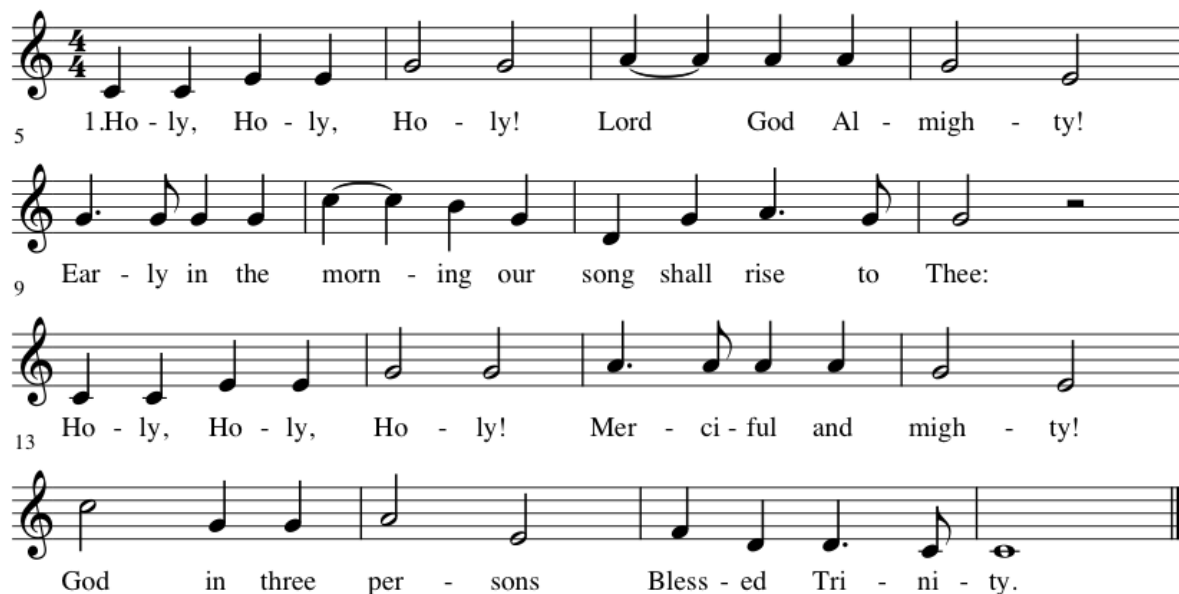
Music: The Old One Hundredth



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.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Music: John Dykes Lyrics: Reginald Heber



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

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

13 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 wert 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!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 7:21-24

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Confession of Sin

Please pray aloud together

O God, we confess that we have fled when you have sought,
We have stopped our ears when you speak,
We have forgotten the good you bring,
and we have despised your correction.
Yet, in our lostness you have sent Christ to help us.
He is our mediator, our redeemer,
 whose blood is our peace,
 whose righteousness is our strength,
 whose condemnation is our freedom,
 whose Spirit is our power,
 whose heaven is our heritage.
Grant us the strength of your grace:
 subdue that within us that must be changed,
 free us from those things which would bind,
 support us in trials,
 be near us in temptation,
 cleanse our consciences of offense before you and others.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

You are invited to confess your sins to God 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: *And also with you!*

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation for a voice part. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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.

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.

O God the Father, from whom the whole church in heaven and earth is named; O God the Son, who lives as head over the church; O God the Holy Spirit, who gathers and perfects the church; O Holy Trinity, eternal love:

Have mercy upon us.

(Silent prayer to bring your personal requests to God.)

That it may please you to strengthen and enlarge your holy Church in every land, and to unite all those who profess and call themselves Christians in faith and hope and love:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for the church)

That your Church may strive, not for its own safety, but for the world's salvation, seeking only your kingdom and your righteousness:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for those who don't believe.)

That you will grant to all ministers of your Word and Sacraments the spirit of wisdom, power, and love, and call many more to the work of your ministry:

We pray to you, O Lord.

(Silent prayer for the Church's ministers.)

Let us pray now 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:13-16

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Lyrics: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

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

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-24

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to[b] one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’[c] **22** But the father said to his servants,[d] ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Profession of Faith

Ian Adams & Cecelia Adams

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 using the prayers provided below as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.]

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.]

Thy Mercy My God

--Lyrics: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Thy Mercy My God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: 'Thy mer-cy, my God, is the theme - of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast - of my tongue; Thy free grace a - lone from the first to the last Hath won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.'

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

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 tongues 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.

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 Change: 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.

Prayer time before the services. We will meet in the Patio Room from 3:30 -3:45 each Sunday to pray for the church and the worship service. Everyone is invited.

Midtown Presbyterian Church

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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