



MIDTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Evening Worship

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

08.10.2025

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 (0-3) during the whole service in the downstairs Nursery. Children ages 4-12 will have Children's Church during the sermon time, also in the Hamilton House.

Reflection

The advantage of a fixed form of service is that we know what is coming. Extemporaneous public prayer has this difficulty; we don't know whether we can mentally join in until we've heard it—it might be phony or heretical. We are therefore called upon to carry on a critical and a devotional activity at the same moment: two things hardly compatible. In a fixed form we ought to have 'gone through the motions' before in our private prayers; the rigid form really sets our devotions free. I also find the more rigid it is, the easier it is to keep one's thoughts from straying. Also it prevents getting too completely eaten up by whatever happens to be the preoccupation of the moment (i.e., war, an election, or what not). The permanent shape of Christianity shows through. I don't see how the extemporaneous method can help becoming provincial, and I think it has a great tendency to direct attention to the minister rather than to God.

--C. S. Lewis

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

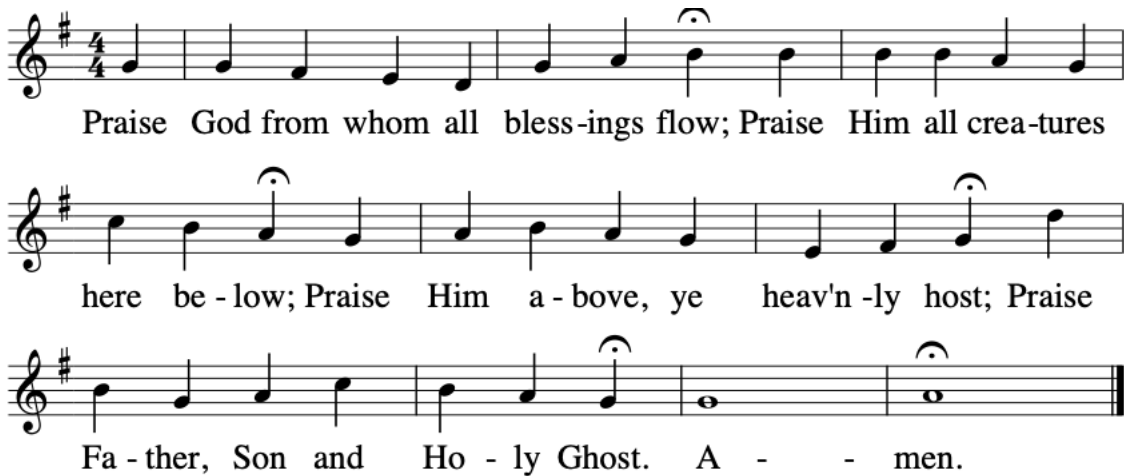
Psalm 95:6-7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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.

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Music: Leigh Nash; Lyrics: Charles Wesley



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove _ and keeps his courts be - low!



Praise the ho - ly God of love _ and all his great - ness show!



Praise him for his no - ble deeds! _ Praise him for his match - less pow'r!



Him from whom all good pro - ceeds, let earth and hea - ven a - dore, let

Chorus



earth and hea - ven a - dore! Praise the name _ of Christ, cel - e -



brate _ and lift him up high! Praise the Lord _ of life!



We'll sing the sto - ry of hon - or and glo - ry and praise the name of Christ.

God in whom they move and live, let every creature sing;
Glory to their maker give, and homage to their king!
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord,
Let all things praise the Lord! [Chorus]

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, We'll sing the story of honor and
glory, and praise the name! [Chorus]

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession of Sin

John 8:32-34

They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

Confession of Sin

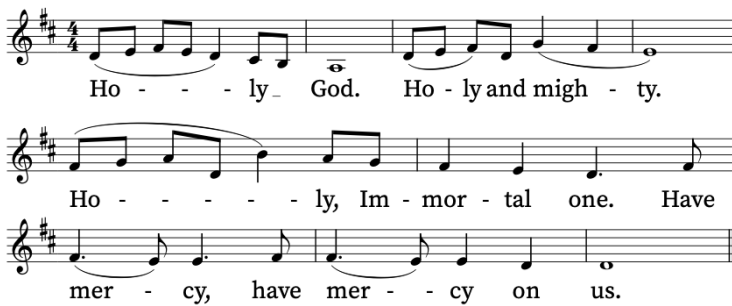
[Pray aloud together]

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

[You are invited to confess your sins 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

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Yet Not I But Christ in Me

Music & Lyrics: Johnny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren



What gift of grace is Je-sus, my re - deem-er. There is no
more for hea-ven now to give; He is my joy, my right-eous-ness and
free-dom; my stead-fast love, my deep and bound-less peace. To this I
hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus! For my life is whol-ly bound to
his. O how strange and di-vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing;
for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead;
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid;
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea;
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for He has said that He will bring me home;
And day by day, I know He will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall rep

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.

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.

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, since You have promised to grant our requests, we make our supplications to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**We pray for our world leaders,
that they will rule with wisdom and peace,
especially in administering justice in troubled lands.**

Let us pray for the world (silence). Amen.

We pray to You also, dear Father, for Your church, the body of Christ,
**that guided by Your Holy Spirit, we would be found to
be wise, zealous, and faithful worshippers.**

Let us pray for the church (silence). Amen.

Moreover, we pray for all men and women throughout the world,
**that they would come to a knowledge of Your saving
grace through the spread of Your gospel.**

Let us pray for those in need of God's grace (silence). Amen.

Finally, we commend to You all who suffer tribulation,
**that it would please You to make them feel
Your Fatherly affection toward them,
so they would find refreshment
and healing in You.**

Let us pray for all who suffer (silence). Amen.

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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

[Reader: Shelly Gauger]

Isaiah 1:18-20

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2:1-4

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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, interposed 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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 11:14-36

14Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. **15**But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," **16**while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. **17**But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. **18**And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. **19**And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. **20**But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **21**When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; **22**but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. **23**Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

24"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' **25**And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. **26**Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

27As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" **28**But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

29When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. **30**For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. **31**The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to

hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. ³²The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

³³"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Minister: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

Rev. Charles Garland

The Table

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 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 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 the center aisle.. 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.]

When I Survey

Lyrics: Isaac Watts; Music: Waly, Waly



When I sur - vey _ the won-drous cross _ on which the
Prince _ of glo-ry died, _ my rich-est gain _ I count but
loss, _ and pour con - tempt _ on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all

In Feast or Fallow

Music & Lyrics: Sandra McCracken

Verse



When the fields are dry, and the win-ter is long,



bles-sed are the meek, the - hum-ble the poor; When my



soul is down - cast and my voice has no - song. For mer-cy, for

Chorus



com-fort, I wait on the Lord. In the har - vest feast or the



fal - low ground, my cer - tain hope is in Je - sus found; my



lot, my cup, my por - tion sure, what - e - ver comes we



shall - en - dure, what - e - ver comes - we shall - en - dure.

On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured
He rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky;
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door,
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. [Chorus]

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes,
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
Without His hand to guide me, my shield and my strength;
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. [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. 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.

Men's Book Study: Reading Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture by Christopher Watkin. The next meeting is Saturday, August 16th @ 10am at the Jankowski's home (317 E. Canyon View Dr.) Dan Horton will lead a discussion of chapter 13 that day.

Pick Up Soccer: 6pm on Wednesdays at Linden Park (300 S Desert Ave 85712). Talk to Stephen Lewis for details (915.373.3108).

Midtown Institutes: Session 8 at the Garland's (1324 N Norton Ave), Saturday morning, 8/16 from 8:30-9:30. Talk to Charles for details.

Kids Music Camp: Our sister church, Desert Springs, is planning a music camp for kids during the week of (Amphi's) fall break, Oct 13-17. Kids will learn to play the ukulele, some basics of music theory, and a wide variety of instruments. If you're interested in getting involved, talk to Stephanie Bowyer, 520-395-7873.

Church Kickball Game: On labor day (9/1) at Linden Park at 4pm.

Set Up Team: We need a few new volunteers to help with Set Up and Takedown on Sundays. The more we have, the less often each person has to do it. Let Frances Plourde or Annalyse Rash know if you can pitch in to help.

Women's August Event: A trip to Ignite sign art museum. We will be going on Saturday, August 16 at 2pm (museum closes at 4pm). The address is 331 S. Olsen Ave, 85719. The website mentions scavenger hunts and fun for all ages. Admission is \$14, kids 6-17 are \$8, and kids under 6 are free.

Elders

Dave Adams
Tim Davis
Matt McReynolds
Ryan Jankowski

Deacons

Nick Dunlap
Colin McRae
Chris Smith

Supported Missions

UA Reformed University Fellowship
Kevin & Nozomi West—Tokyo
Zak Garland—Tokyo
DH & Emily Henry—Navajo Nation

Pastor: Charles Garland

Music Director: Sarah Lewis

Children's Director: Annalyse Rash

RUF Staff: Matt & Sarah Esswein

RUF Interns: Paige Jackson & Russ
Witt

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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