



**MIDTOWN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Evening Worship

## The Seventh Sunday Of Easter

### 05.16.2021

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**

If we try to make something finite fill the place that only God can fill, we will try to extract an unrealistic level of meaning from that idol. When it does not work, it invites us only to try harder. It should not surprise us in a deeply idolatrous society that books on codependency and addiction form a growth industry. People feel enslaved to substances, to unwanted behavior, and to each other. The idol begins as a means of power, enabling us to control, but then overpowers, controlling us.

--Dick Keyes

# The Word

## Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is risen!  
**All: He is risen indeed!**  
Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Worship begins with God's call to us to worship him. We keep using the Easter greeting during all the weeks of Easter.

## Doxology

Music: The Old One Hundredth

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.

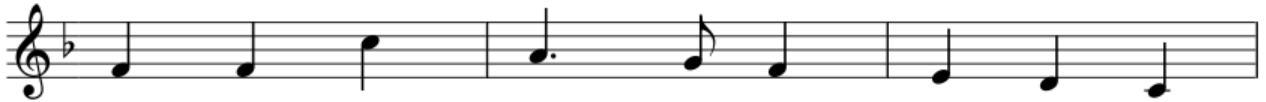
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures  
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n -ly host; Praise  
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lyrics: Joachim Neander; Music: 17th Century German Tune



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty the king of cre - a - tion!  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth.  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.  
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea so  
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here  
All that hath life and breath, come now with



help and sal - - va - - tion!  
gent - - ly sus - - tain eth!  
dai - - ly at - - tend thee.  
prai - - ses be - - fore him.



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw  
Hast thou not seen how all your long - ings hath  
Pon - der a new what the Al - migh - ty can  
Let the a men sound from his peo - ple a -



near. Praise him in glad a - dor - a - tion!  
been, gran - ted in what he or - dain - eth?  
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.  
gain, Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

## 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."

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

[Pray aloud together]

**Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and (You are invited to confess your sins silently at this time.)**

[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!**

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.

# 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 William Price]

[Pray the bold portions aloud together]

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.**

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 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.**

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.**

Grant us, Father, hearts to believe that Jesus now sits in strength  
and is able to sympathize with our weakness.

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.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

[Reader: Alicia Morris]

Psalm 95:6-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 6:35-40

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

--Lyrics: George Matheson; Music: Kevin Twit

Voice

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second staff continues: C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. The third staff continues: C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. The fourth staff continues: C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1. The lyrics are: "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."

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.

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.

## New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-33

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

<sup>18</sup> Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? <sup>19</sup> Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is

anything, or that an idol is anything?<sup>20</sup> No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.<sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

<sup>23</sup> "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. <sup>24</sup> No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

<sup>25</sup> Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, <sup>26</sup> for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

<sup>27</sup> If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. <sup>28</sup> But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. <sup>29</sup> I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? <sup>30</sup> If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— <sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Minister:       The Word of the Lord.  
People:         **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. John Stone

# The Table

## Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**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.]

We use the ancient creeds and confessions 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.

## **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 Sursum Corda and the Mystery of Faith are used by Christians the world over to prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

## **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!**

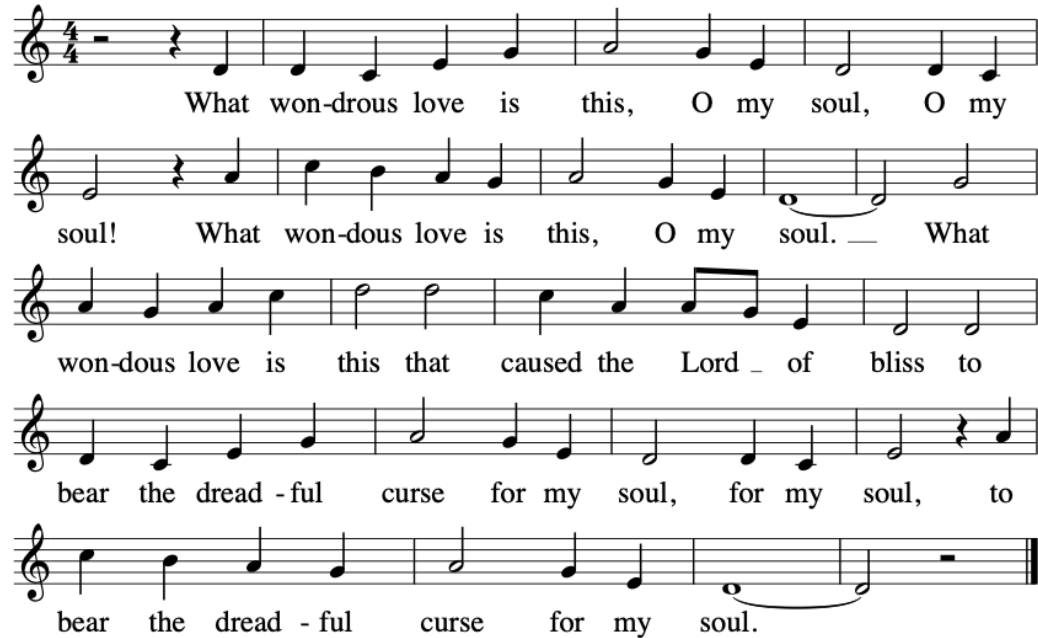
Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

### **The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

[As you are ready please come forward 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.]

# What Wondrous Love is This

Music & Lyrics: American Folk Hymn



What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
soul! What won-drous love is this, O my soul. — What  
won-drous love is this that caused the Lord — of bliss to  
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to  
bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down;  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on!



# Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Lyrics & Music: Robert Lowry

5 What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing -but the blood of Je - sus!

9 What can make me whole a-gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

13 O, pre-cious is the flow, that makes me white as sn-ow!

No o-ther fount I know. No-thing but the blood of Je - sus!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a measure rest labeled '5'. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '9'. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '13'. The music is a simple melody with lyrics underneath.

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

## 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.

**Midtown Institute:** Our next meeting will be Sunday morning, May 30, from 9:00-10:30 on the McReynold’s patio (1241 E Sobre Lomas).

**Monday Soccer:** Monday at 5:00 at Mansfield Park in the NW corner.

**Women’s Sermon Discussion:** Saturday mornings @ 10:00 at Dana McReynold’s home (1241 E Sobre Lomas). We’ll discuss the Ecclesiastes sermons referring to Charles’ sermons and William Price’s book [As Far As the Curse is Found](#).

**Pastor:** Charles Garland  
**Music Director:** Sarah Lewis  
**RUF Staff:** Dan & Brittany Smith  
**RUF Interns:** Noah Hamstra &  
Rebekah Taylor

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