



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**KINGDOM PARABLES • BOOK OF MATTHEW**

**MAY 14, 2023**

## ***Welcome to Mercy Presbyterian Church***

Thank you for joining us in worship today. If you are visiting with us, we are delighted that you have chosen to be with us and our desire is to be a blessing to you. Our prayer is that God will transform our lives and enable us to live for His glory and the good of the world. We would love to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have. Please share your information with us by emailing us at [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com).

## ***Our Worship***

You will notice that we follow a thoughtful and connected rhythm in our worship, called liturgy. The order of our worship reflects the work of the gospel in our hearts. In worship, we come together to tell the story of the gospel by the structure of our worship, the content of our worship, and the way that we worship.

## ***Parents of Young Children***

We believe the church is for all people, young and old, and want Mercy to be a church where children are seen, heard, and loved. We invite you to involve your children in our service, help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say and sing parts of our worship service every week in order to help our young children to participate. Children's bulletins with coloring activities are available by the door to the sanctuary. Nursery is also available for babies and toddlers. A Mother's Room is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one. The office to the north of the sanctuary is a private space set with comfortable chairs and a changing station.



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Lord's Day Worship | May 14, 2023

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION** | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

*Psalm 42:1-6a*

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?**

My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"

**These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**

**HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

*We Praise You, O God*

*Music by Julia B. Cory | Dutch Melody | Public Domain*

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;  
We lay it before You; we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers and mothers;  
Through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been;  
When perils o'ertake us, You never forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise;  
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,  
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

**DOXOLOGY** | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** | *We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace*

*from James 2:1-5*

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

**Heavenly Father, I see the sinfulness of my sin, so let me also see the graciousness of your grace, and the fullness of Christ. I come to you for righteousness, because I see my sin is exceedingly sinful. O Lord, keep my soul in the ocean of your free love. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE** | *God forgives our sins and gives us grace*

*Matthew 18:18-20*

*"...Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*

**HYMN OF GRACE** | *We celebrate God's gift of grace*

*Is He Worthy*

*Words and Music by Andrew Peterson & Ben Shive | Capitol ©2018*

Do you feel the world is broken (we do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen (we do)  
But do you know that all the dark  
Won't stop the light from getting through (we do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new (we do)

Is all creation groaning (it is)  
Is a new creation coming (it is)  
Is the glory of the Lord  
To be the light within our midst (it is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this (it is)

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll  
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy of this  
He is

Does the Father truly love us (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us (He does)  
And does Jesus our Messiah  
Hold forever those He loves (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us (He does)

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From ev'ry people and tribe  
Every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests  
To God to reign with the Son

Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Is He worthy of this  
He is

Is He worthy  
Is He worthy  
He is  
He is

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Jeff & Stacie Allen*  
*Beckett David Allen\**

## MEMBERSHIP VOWS

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Emery Noelle Allen*

*Hudson James Allen*

## **PARENTAL VOWS**

1. Do you acknowledge your children's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## **CONGREGATIONAL VOW**

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?



## CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

### *The Nicene Creed*

*The Nicene Creed was a result of the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. The creed emphasizes the doctrine of the Trinity in response to the teachings of Arius, a clergyman who denied the divinity of the Son, the second member of the Trinity.*

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER | *We lift up our requests to God*

**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.**

***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

*Words by Edward Mote | Music by William B. Bradbury | Public Domain*

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found:  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

## RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS

*Wesley Robert Anderson*

*Laura Grace Dawson*

*Luke Michael Fesler*

*Robert Grant Mobley*

*Andrew Darren Morgan*

*Noah Yongchun Thomason*

*Sophia Caroline Wright*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH DISMISSAL** | *Children 4 years old through 2nd grade*

Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup>For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

“You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

<sup>15</sup>For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

<sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup>For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *The Unexpected Kingdom*

**SERMON NOTES**

## INTERLUDE

### CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | *The family meal of Christians*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, making us in your image. We praise you for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who by His death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Savior's word, may share in victory and eternal life.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Hallelujah! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Hallelujah!**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

*The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who have believed the good news, have repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. 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 hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.*

*Please consider offering your tithes as a physical act of worship by placing your offering in the tithe box located at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

### **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

### **Prayer for Awakening**

*Lord Jesus, I have heard from the Bible for years, and have been in church for years, but very little of this seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the badness of the bad news. Enthrall me with the goodness of the good news. Make what is familiar seem new. 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 to 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 Covenant Children**

*Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.*

### **Prayer for Those Struggling Against Sin**

*Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.*

**COMMUNION HYMN** | *We celebrate the family meal of Christians*

*Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

*Words by George Matheson | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997*

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering 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.



**SENDING SONG** | *We are sent as God's people into the world as we trust His promises*

*O Love Incomprehensible*

*Words by Anne Steele & Augustus Montague Toplady | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©2001*

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

What pain what soul-oppressing pain  
The Great Redeemer bore  
While bloody sweat like drops of rain  
Distilled from every pore!

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

Arraigned at Pilate's shameful bar,  
Unparalleled disgrace!  
See spotless innocence appear  
In guilt's detested place.

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

The spotless Savior lived for me,  
And died upon the mount  
The obedience of His life and death,  
Is placed to my account!

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

Tis finished! Now aloud He cries  
No more the Law requires  
And now, amazing sacrifice,  
The Lord of Life expires!

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

On Thee alone my hope relies,  
Beneath Thy cross I fall  
My Lord, my Life, my Sacrifice,  
My Savior and my All!

O Love incomprehensible  
That made Thee bleed for me  
The Judge of all has suffered death  
To set His prisoner free.

**GLORIA PATRI** | *(Glory to the Father) We praise the Triune God*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

**BENEDICTION** | *God sends us out into the world with His blessing*

*Romans 15:5-6*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**DISMISSAL** | *God sends us out into the world*

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Mercy Membership Class***

Our Intro to Mercy class is a great way to learn more about the church, our vision and what we believe. The class is required for those seeking to join the church but does not compel anyone to join. If you are interested in taking the class, please email church@mercydallas.com to reserve your spot. The next session is Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-5pm at the Tharp's home. Lunch and snacks will be provided and on site childcare can be made available.

### ***Communion Bread Team***

Our communion bread is baked each week by members of our congregation. Heading into summer, this team is looking to add more members into the rotation! If you're interested in learning more about this team, contact Shannon Watson (shannonawatson@gmail.com).

### ***Mercy Midweek***

Save the date for Mercy Midweek Dinners this summer on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Further details to come. Childcare will be available with advance registration.

### ***Summer Suppers***

This summer, join your Mercy Family for casual "get to know you" Summer Suppers! Your group can decide to host in homes, head to a restaurant, or even potluck at a park. Ideally, each group will gather two to three times over the summer months. **Registration ends on May 21<sup>st</sup>!** Contact Joanna Dawson (women@mercydallas.com) with any questions.

### ***Youth Group***

This Sunday's youth group will be at The Village from 6-8pm. We will meet at the field where we had a volleyball/sports day last year. If you navigate to The Village Lakes, 8610 Southwestern Blvd., you will arrive at the leasing office, directly in front of the open field. We will have an extended outdoor time, then migrate over to the Patch residence for worship and games. We plan to be outside for a while so students should bring a water bottle and wear something comfortable to run around in. For more information about the youth ministry and schedule, contact Josh and Hannah Patch at youth@mercydallas.com.

### ***Women's Ministry***

The Blessing Brunch honoring our graduating senior girls is next Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. This summer, the women's ministry will host two socials. Join us on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> for a Pie Party at the Nelson's Home and start gathering your books for a book swap on August 19<sup>th</sup>!

### ***Mercy Financial Update***

For questions about giving, expenses or Mercy's budget, you can reach out to Brett Cast (brett@mercydallas.com) or Bryan Hatfield (bryan@mercydallas.com).

<b>2022/2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>
July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 Expenses	\$500,149
July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 Giving	\$460,589
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$39,560)</i>

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, May 14**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | 8610 Southwestern Blvd.

### **Thursday, May 18**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Saturday, May 20**

10 - 11:30am

Blessing Brunch | The Swindell's Home

### **Sunday, May 21**

1 - 5pm

Mercy Membership Class | The Tharp's Home

### **Wednesday, June 28**

6:30 - 8:30pm

Mercy Midweek | Temple Shalom

### **Thursday, July 20**

7 - 8:30pm

Pie Party | The Nelson's Home

### **Wednesday, July 26**

6:30 - 8:30pm

Mercy Midweek | Temple Shalom

### **Saturday, August 19**

2 - 4pm

Book Swap | TBD

### **Sunday, August 27**

12:30 - 2:30pm

Fall Kickoff | Mimosa Park

## CONNECTING

### **Community Groups**

Community Groups are a vital part of Mercy's ministry and worship. If you are interested in joining a community group, please contact Jessica at [jessica@mercydallas.com](mailto:jessica@mercydallas.com).

### **Weekly Update**

Our weekly email newsletter is the primary way we communicate announcements, information about church life, and details about upcoming events. Email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) if you would like to receive weekly emails.

### **Prayer Requests**

If you have a private matter that the session could be praying for, please email their private email at [session@mercydallas.com](mailto:session@mercydallas.com). They would love the opportunity to lift your needs before the Lord.

### **Giving**

If you would like to give to the work and worship of Mercy Presbyterian Church, you can do so in three ways:

- Place checks or cash in the offering box located by the door as you exit the sanctuary on Sundays.
- Give online at [www.mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general](http://www.mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general)
- Mail a check to Mercy Presbyterian, P.O. Box 670035, Dallas, TX 75230

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## MINISTRY STAFF

### **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Doug Tharp | [doug@mercydallas.com](mailto:doug@mercydallas.com)

### **Ministry Coordinator**

Jessica Nokes | [jessica@mercydallas.com](mailto:jessica@mercydallas.com)

### **Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Emily Freeman | [emily@mercydallas.com](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com)

### **Women's Ministry Coordinator**

Joanna Dawson | [women@mercydallas.com](mailto:women@mercydallas.com)

### **Director of Music**

Sal Bautista | [music@mercydallas.com](mailto:music@mercydallas.com)

### **Youth Group Leaders** | [youth@mercydallas.com](mailto:youth@mercydallas.com)

Josh and Hannah Patch

Nate and Cecile Foster

Thomas and Katherine Walter

## SESSION | [session@mercydallas.com](mailto:session@mercydallas.com)

Rev. Doug Tharp

Jon Buell

Dave Nelson

Tim Swindell

## DEACONS | [deacons@mercydallas.com](mailto:deacons@mercydallas.com)

Thomas Buerger

Brett Cast

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter