



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

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.

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.



ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Lord's Day | September 25, 2022

REFLECTION

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

- Corrie ten Boom

Do not work so hard for Christ that you have no strength to pray, for prayer requires strength.

- Hudson Taylor

Prayer is not a hard requirement - it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.

- Charles Spurgeon

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 130:1-6

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

O Worship the King

Words by Robert Grant | Music by Johann Haydn (arr. William Gardiner) | Public Domain

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space,
Whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

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*

Holy God, Father most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled. Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Our sins trouble us, O God. We are troubled by how they have hurt others. We are troubled by how they have hurt us. Your ways are right! O righteous God! And whenever we have refused to follow them we have found out how right they are. Have mercy on us, O God. Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us for the sake of your Son, who died to free us from our sins. To you be honor and glory! Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

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

What Wondrous Love is This

American Folk Hymn | Public Domain

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful 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.

BAPTISM

Landon David Cast

Parental Vows

1. Do you acknowledge your child'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 in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him 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 this child?

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q55

What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

Be Thou My Vision

**Hymn of the Month | Teaching our children great hymns of our faith
Ancient Irish Hymn | Public Domain*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art!
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | *Luke 18:1-14*

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” ⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *A Praying Church*

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. Enthral 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.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore | Drink Your Tea Music ©2015

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood.
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night before the dawn,
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning O how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together bring shalom.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

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. Amen.

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

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some reasons or excuses you give for not praying as much as you'd like?
- 2) "Troubled times and hopeless hearts lead to prayerless lives." Why do difficult circumstances and moments of feeling far from the Lord make prayer feel like a last resort? What does this say about our view of God relationally?
- 3) What does the widow's persistence teach us about prayer? See verse 1 and verses 7-8 to put the pieces together.
- 4) Why do you think Jesus shares the parable of the tax collector, which is also about prayer, immediately following the parable of the persistent widow? How are they linked?
- 5) Let's be honest. It can be easier to relate to the Pharisee in this passage than the tax collector. In what ways do you find yourself looking down on others to justify yourself before the Lord rather than coming with a "have mercy on me, a sinner" prayer-life?
- 6) Application: What is one way you'd like to see your prayer life change because the Gospel is true?

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 25

Youth Volunteer Sunday

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Tompkins' Home

6pm

Meet the Tharps | Dawson's Home

Tuesday, September 27

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, September 28

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 2

11:15am

Congregational Meeting | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, October 4

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 5

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 9

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, October 11

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 12

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 16

11:45am - 1pm

Intro to Mercy (1) | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, October 18

No Men's Bible Study

No Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 19

No Women's Bible Study

Sunday, October 23

Youth Volunteer Sunday

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

11:45am - 1pm

Intro to Mercy (2) | Temple Shalom

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Church's Home

Tuesday, October 25

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 26

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 30

11:45am - 1pm

Intro to Mercy (3) | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, November 1

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, November 2

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, November 6

11:45am - 1pm

Intro to Mercy (4) | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, November 8

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Dallas

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, November 9

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, November 13

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intro to Mercy

Intro to Mercy classes resume this fall. Dates have shifted slightly for the four-week class and are as follows: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 & 11/2. The class will meet Sundays after church in September and October in the conference room at Temple Shalom. We will provide lunch and childcare. Come hear about Mercy's vision, mission, core values, theology, and how to get involved. Contact Jessica for more information or sign up via the link in the weekly email.

Mercy Children

Nursery is available weekly for infants (Nursery Room). Sunday School will be available for toddlers weekly during the service. Children (4 years-2nd Grade) will be dismissed from the service during the sermon for Children's Church and Elementary Sunday School (3rd-5th Grade) will meet at 9am on 2nd & 4th Sundays. Our Mother's Room is available during the service if you need a space to feed a baby or calm a little one who is feeling fussy. The office to the north of the sanctuary is a private space set with comfortable chairs and a changing station. If you have any questions or would like to get involved with our children's ministry, please email Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com).

Youth Group

Youth Group meets 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings at rotating homes. The schedule will be listed on the calendar in the bulletin. The 4th Sunday of each month, youth have the opportunity to serve as part of the Set Up or Welcome Team as a group, though they are welcome to serve any week alongside their families. For more information about the youth ministry and schedule, contact Josh and Hannah Patch at youth@mercydallas.com.

Women's Ministry

Please join the women of Mercy for a seven-week Bible Study this fall. We will study Nancy Guthrie's book, *The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis*. Join us either Tuesday mornings (childcare available) or Wednesday evenings. You can find more info on the registration page, linked in the weekly email. We look forward to studying God's Word with the women in our church family!

Men's Ministry

The Mercy Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30am at Cindi's Deli in Dallas (on Central between Forest and Royal). We will study Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* (ISBN-10: 0684815001 or ISBN-13: 978-0684815008).

Serve at Mercy

Sunday morning volunteers are critical to the work and worship of Mercy. Contact Jessica at jessica@mercydallas.com for more information or to sign up.

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 if you would like to receive weekly emails.

CONNECTING

Pastor Search Team

If you have any questions about the ongoing pastor search, or are interested in contacting the Pastor Search Team, please email pastorsearch@mercydallas.com.

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.

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 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. 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.givingfire.com.
- Mail a check to Mercy Presbyterian, P.O. Box 670035, Dallas, TX 75230

MINISTRY STAFF

Interim Pastor

Rev. Ryan Tompkins | ryan@mercydallas.com

Ministry Coordinator

Jessica Nokes | jessica@mercydallas.com

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Emily Freeman | emily@mercydallas.com

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Dawson | women@mercydallas.com

Director of Music

Sal Bautista | music@mercydallas.com

Youth Group Leaders | youth@mercydallas.com

Josh and Hannah Patch

Nate and Cecile Foster

Glenn Lanier

Thomas and Katherine Walter

SESSION | session@mercydallas.com

Jon Buell

Dave Nelson

Rev. Ryan Tompkins

Tim Swindell

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Brett Cast

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter