



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



KINGDOM LIFE • 2 CORINTHIANS

JANUARY 1, 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.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

New Year's Day | January 1, 2023

### REFLECTION

*"The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned."*

- Maya Angelou

*"In religion, as in war and everything else, comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end: if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth -- only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair."*

- C.S. Lewis

### 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 108:1-4*

My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!

**Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!**

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

***Creation Sings the Father's Song***

*Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©2008*

Creation sings the Father's song  
He calls the sun to wake the dawn  
And run the course of day  
Till evening comes in crimson rays  
His fingerprints in flakes of snow  
His breath upon this spinning globe  
He charts the eagle's flight  
Commands the newborn baby's cry

Hallelujah  
Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah  
Fill the earth with songs of worship  
Tell the wonders of creation's King

Creation gazed upon His face  
The ageless One in time's embrace  
Unveiled the Father's plan  
Of reconciling God and man  
A second Adam walked the earth  
Whose blameless life would break the curse  
Whose death would set us free  
To live with Him eternally

Hallelujah  
Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah  
Fill the earth with songs of worship  
Tell the wonders of creation's King

Creation longs for His return  
When Christ shall reign upon the earth  
The bitter wars that rage  
Are birth pains of a coming age  
When He renews the land and sky  
All heaven will sing and earth reply  
With one resplendent theme  
The glory of our God and King

Hallelujah  
Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah  
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**ADVENT DOXOLOGY** | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
We'll praise Your name forever, we'll praise your name forever.  
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

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

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*Jeremiah 31:33-34*

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

*In Christ Alone*

*Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©2002*

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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

### *The Guanabara Confession | Article I*

*First Protestant Confession of the New World, written by French Huguenots and signed 12 hours before their martyrdom.*

We believe in one God, immortal, invisible, creator of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible, who is identified in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who constitute nothing else but the same substance in essence, eternal and of the same will; the Father, source and beginning of all good; the Son, eternally generated by the Father, who, in the fullness of time, manifested Himself in the flesh to the world, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, made under the law to rescue those that were under it, in order that we would be received by adoption as God's own sons; the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, teacher of all truth, speaking through the mouths of the prophets, bringing the things that were said by our Lord Jesus Christ to the apostles. He is the only comforter in affliction, imparting steadfastness and perseverance in all good. We believe that it is necessary to worship solely, perfectly love, cry to and call upon the majesty of God in faith, and in a personal manner.

## 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 Still My Soul*

*Words by Kathrina von Schlegel | Translated by Jane Borthwick | Music by Jean Sibelius | Public Domain*

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.  
Be still, my soul; your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past;  
your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
his voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart  
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
then you will better know his love, his heart,  
who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still my soul; when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

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



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup>For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup>If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. <sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup>You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *God, Our Comfort*

## 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*

***Mighty God We Thank and Praise You***

*Words by Wendell Kimbrough | Music by Ludwig van Beethoven | Wendell Kimbrough ©2012*

Mighty God we thank and praise you  
For this meal, this Bread of Life!  
Precious blood and body, broken,  
From your Son our Savior Christ.

In these myst'ries you assure us  
We are members of your Son.  
Heirs of your eternal Kingdom,  
With all faithful people One.

Humbly now we ask you, Father,  
In your grace to make us strong  
That, with all the saints before us,  
In good works we may press on!

Send us out to love and serve you!  
Send us out to sing your praise!  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Pow'r and glory to your name!

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

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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

***All Glory Be to Christ***

*Traditional Scottish Folk Tune | Dustin Kensrue | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2012*

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive  
Unless the Lord does raise the house in vain its builders strive.  
To You who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?  
A mist it vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

His will be done His Kingdom come, on Earth as is above  
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.  
Let living waters satisfy, the thirsty without price -  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

When on the day the Great I Am, the faithful and the true,  
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain is making all things new!  
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast Light!  
And we shall e'er his people be, all glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

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

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.*

**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!**

## CALENDAR

### **Tuesday, January 10**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Tuesday, January 17**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Tuesday, January 24**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Wednesday, January 25**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

### **Tuesday, January 31**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Wednesday, February 1**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

### **Friday, February 3**

5 - 10pm

Women's Retreat | Gathering Oaks | Crawford, TX

### **Saturday, February 4**

7:30am - 10pm

Women's Retreat | Gathering Oaks | Crawford, TX

### **Sunday, February 5**

6:30am - 8am

Women's Retreat | Gathering Oaks | Crawford, TX

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Mercy Children***

Nursery is available weekly for infants (Nursery Room). Sunday School is available for toddlers during the service. Children (4 years-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) are dismissed from the service during the sermon for Children's Church. Elementary Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) meets at 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. 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. If you have any questions or would like to get involved with our children's ministry, please email Emily Freeman ([emily@mercydallas.com](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com)).

### ***Youth Group***

Youth Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings at rotating homes. The schedule will be listed on the calendar in the bulletin and online. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:youth@mercydallas.com).

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

Our study of Genesis will continue on January. The Tuesday morning study will resume on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the Wednesday evening study will resume on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Joanna Dawson ([women@mercydallas.com](mailto:women@mercydallas.com)) with any questions regarding the women's ministry at Mercy.

### ***Serve at Mercy***

Sunday morning volunteers are critical to the work and worship of Mercy. Contact Jessica at [jessica@mercydallas.com](mailto: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](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) if you would like to receive weekly emails.

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

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