



MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

**JANUARY 15, 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

Lord's Day Worship | January 15, 2023

### REFLECTION

*God requires two things of us here: to condemn ourselves for our sins, and to forgive others. And we are to do the former for the sake of the latter, that this may become easier (for he who considers his own sins is more indulgent to his fellow-servant).*

- John Chrysostom

*"Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."*

- Corrie Ten Boom

*"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."*

- Mark Twain

### 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*

*Psalms 150:1-6*

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

**Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

**Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**

Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

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

***Father Long Before Creation***

*Chinese Hymn Translated by Francis Johnson | Music by Andrew Osenga | The Velvet Eagle Sings ©2005*

Father, long before creation  
Thou hadst chosen us in love,  
And that love so deep, so moving,  
Draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us  
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion,  
Yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and His covenant  
Through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story,  
Is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing  
Moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us  
That His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee  
We will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing  
'Til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory  
To our God and to the Lamb.

**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*

**O gracious and gentle and condescending God, God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort: we confess before you the evil of our hearts; we acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Too often have we thus both offended and grieved you, O long-suffering Father. Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing you have promised the peacemakers, who shall be called the children of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*John 16:33*

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

*Help My Unbelief*

*Words by John Newton | Music and Chorus by Clint Wells | Red Mountain Music ©2006*

I know the Lord is nigh,  
And would but cannot pray,  
For Satan meets me when I try,  
And frights my soul away.  
And frights my soul away.

I would but can't repent,  
Though I endeavor oft;  
This stony heart can ne'er relent  
Till Jesus makes it soft.  
Till Jesus make it soft.

Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.  
Help my unbelief.  
My help must come from Thee.

I would but cannot love,  
Though wooed by love divine;  
No arguments have power to move  
A soul as base as mine.  
A soul so base as mine.

I would but cannot rest,  
In God's most holy will;  
I know what He appoints is best,  
And murmur at it still.  
I murmur at it still.

Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.  
Help my unbelief.  
My help must come from Thee.

Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.  
Help my unbelief.  
My help must come from Thee.

*The Guanabara Confession | Article I*

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.

**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*

### ***Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah***

*Words by William Williams | Music by Jeremy Casella | 2037 Music ©2002*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore;  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.  
Strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
Songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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



Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. <sup>6</sup>For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, <sup>7</sup>so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup>so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. <sup>12</sup>When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup>my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia. <sup>14</sup>But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. <sup>15</sup>For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup>to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? <sup>17</sup>For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**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*

***The Christian's Hope Can Never Fail***

*Anonymous from The Gadsby Hymnal, 1838 | Music by Benj Pocta | Red Mountain Music ©2006*

We travel through a barren land,  
With dangers thick on every hand;  
But Jesus guides us through the vale;  
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

Huge sorrows meet us as we go,  
And devils aim to overthrow;  
But vile infernals can't prevail;  
O, The Christian's hope shall never fail.

Sometimes we're tempted to despair,  
But Jesus makes us then His care;  
Though numerous foes our souls assail;  
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word,  
The oath and promise of the Lord;  
And safely through each tempest sail;  
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

**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.

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

***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.

**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**

### ***Installation Service***

Doug's Installation Service will take place at 4pm on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> with a reception to follow in the social hall. Please make plans to join us for this special event!

### ***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. Youth will meet next Sunday evening, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm. High school students should bring their catechism; all students should come with their Bibles! On 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***

The Tuesday morning study meets at Joanna Dawson's home from 9:30-11am. The Wednesday evening study will resume on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Debi Nelson's home from 7-8:30pm. Feel free to join, even if you were unable to attend in the fall. For questions regarding the women's ministry at Mercy, contact Joanna Dawson ([women@mercydallas.com](mailto:women@mercydallas.com)).

### ***Men's Ministry***

Join us on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, as we kick off our men's Bible study. We will study the book of Ephesians where Paul calls us to examine every area of our lives in light of the gospel, including marriage, family, and work. There is no text to order for this study; we will use some prepared questions and Bible study methods to work through the letter together. You do not need to read or prepare for the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### ***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.

## **JANUARY CALENDAR**

### **Tuesday, January 17**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Sunday, January 22**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | TBD

### **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

### **Thursday, January 26**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Sunday, January 29**

4pm

Installation Service for Rev. Doug Tharp | The Chapel

5pm

Reception for Rev. Doug Tharp | Social Hall

### **Tuesday, January 31**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home



## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, February 1**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

### **Thursday, February 2**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **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**

6:30 - 8am

Women's Retreat | Gathering Oaks | Crawford, TX

### **Tuesday, February 7**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Wednesday, February 8**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

### **Thursday, February 9**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Sunday, February 12**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | TBD

**Tuesday, February 14**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, February 15**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, February 16**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Tuesday, February 21**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, February 22**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, February 23**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Sunday, February 26**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | TBD

**Tuesday, February 28**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, March 1**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, March 2**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

# 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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