



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

JANUARY 8, 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 8, 2023

### REFLECTION

*My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colors  
He weaveth steadily.*

- Corrie Ten Boom

*"Consider any individual at any period of his life, and you will always find him preoccupied  
with fresh plans to increase his comfort."*

- Alexis de Tocqueville

*"It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him."*

- J.R.R. Tolkien

### 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 8:1-9*

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength  
because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,

**what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care  
for him?**

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned  
him with glory and honor.

**You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,**

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

*Come and Welcome*

*Words by Thomas Haweis | Music by Matthew Perryman Jones | Smoldering Wick Music ©2004*

From the cross uplifted high  
Where the Savior deigns to die  
What melodious sounds I hear  
Bursting on my ravished ear  
Love's redeeming work is done  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.

Sprinkled now with blood the throne  
Why beneath thy burdens groan  
On my pierced body laid  
Justice owns the ransom paid  
Bow the knee and kiss the Son  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.

Spread for thee the festal board  
See with richest dainties stored  
To thy Father's bosom pressed  
Yet again a child confessed  
Never from His house to roam  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.

Soon the days of life shall end  
Lo, I come, your Savior, Friend  
Safe your spirit to convey  
To the realms of endless day  
Up to my eternal home.  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.

**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*

**Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*Proverbs 3:3-6*

*Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

*Words by John Newton | Music by Alexander Reinagle | Public Domain*

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,  
And to the weary, rest.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart,  
How cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see you as you are,  
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim  
With every fleeting breath;  
And may the music of your name  
Refresh my soul in death.

## 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*

***Crown Him with Many Crowns***

*Words by Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring | Music by George Elvey | Public Domain*

*\*Hymn of the Month | Teaching our children great hymns of our faith*

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul and sing of Him Who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, One with the Father known,  
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne,  
To Thee be endless praise For Thou for us hast died;  
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou has died for me;  
Thy praise shall never never fail throughout eternity.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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



For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. <sup>13</sup>For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— <sup>14</sup>just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. <sup>15</sup>Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. <sup>16</sup>I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. <sup>17</sup>Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? <sup>18</sup>As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. <sup>19</sup>For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. <sup>20</sup>For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup>And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup>and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. <sup>23</sup>But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. <sup>24</sup>Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. <sup>2</sup>For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? <sup>3</sup>And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. <sup>4</sup>For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *When Plans Change*

**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.*

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

*The Church's One Foundation*

*Words by Samuel Stone | Music by Brian Moss | ©1996 Parson John Publishing*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation, by water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish, her dear Lord to defend  
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale  
Against a foe or traitor, she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
'Til, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

**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.

***Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)***

*Words by Kathrina von Schlegel | Translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick | Music by Jean Sibelius  
Additional Words and Music by Kari Jobe and Jason Ingram | Worship Together Music ©2013*

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God to order and provide  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain  
Be still my soul thy best thy heav'nly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past  
Thy hope thy 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 dwelt below.

In You I rest, in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul.

Be still my soul the hour is hastening 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.

In You I rest, in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul.

In You I rest in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul, Be still my soul  
Be still my soul.

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

*Psalm 67:1-3*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

**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

### **Sunday, January 8**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

### **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

### **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

### **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**

6:30 - 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

**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

**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

**Sunday, February 26**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | TBD

## **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. Youth will meet this Sunday evening at the Churches home (3970 Cobblestone Circle, Dallas TX 75229) from 6-8pm. High school students should bring their catechism; all students should come with their Bibles! 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 of Genesis will resume this week on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Joanna Dawson's home. The Wednesday evening study will resume on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Debi Nelson's home. 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)).

### ***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**

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  
Glenn and Maci Lanier  
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