



# CHRISTMAS DAY

## ***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

Christmas Day | December 25, 2022

### 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*

*From Daniel 4:1-3*

Peace be multiplied to you!

**Let us proclaim the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for us!**

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders!

**His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation. Great is the Lord!**

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

*Joy to the World!*

*Words by Isaac Watts | Music by George Frederick Handel | Arranged by Lowell Mason | Public Domain*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**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*

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*based on Psalm 85:9-13*

*Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. Thanks be to God!*

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

***What Child is This***

*Words by W. Chatterton Dix | Traditional English Folk Song | Public Domain*

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here,  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

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

*Nicene Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

*Traditional English Carol | 18th c. | Public Domain*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay;  
remember Christ, our Savior  
was born on Christmas Day  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father  
a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel,  
"let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior,  
the true and radiant light,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and in true love and fellowship  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
is filled with heav'nly grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. <sup>21</sup>And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. <sup>24</sup>Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church....

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## 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.*

*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

**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*

***Go Tell It on the Mountain***

*African-American Spiritual | Adapted by John W. Work | Public Domain*

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

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

*Colossians 3:15-17*

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 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!**

## 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**

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