



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

APRIL 24, 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.

Overview of Nehemiah

In 587 BC, Judah was sent into Babylonian exile. In 538 BC, Judah began to return. Upon their return, there was no Temple and there were no walls to define and protect the city of Jerusalem. As one commentator puts it, "It was a death to make way for a rebirth."

Nehemiah tells the story of God's people's effort to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which are representative of the people's identity being re-established according to the Covenant with God. It is a story of challenge and hope - a story of what it looks like to repent and to commit oneself to God and his purposes. It is a reminder to Mercy Pres of what it means to be faithful as God's people, and what it means to prioritize what is truly important.



ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Lord's Day | April 24, 2022

REFLECTION

"When there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law."

- Proverbs 29:18

"The nation will find it very hard to look up to the leaders who are keeping their ears to the ground."

- Sir Winston Churchill

INVOCATION | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

CALL TO WORSHIP | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

Isaiah 55:1-3

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

Father Long Before Creation

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

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*

Almighty Father. we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Romans 8:31-34

What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

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

Jesus Paid It All

Words by Elvina M. Hall | Music by John T. Grape | ©2006 worshiptogether.com

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
Jesus died my soul to save,
My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q27

What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

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*

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**Hymn of the Month | Teaching our children great hymns of our faith
Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Lyra Davidica | Public Domain*

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. ²For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." ³There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." ⁴And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. ⁵Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards." ⁶I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them ⁸and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. ⁹So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? ¹⁰Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. ¹¹Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." ¹²Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. ¹³I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised. ¹⁴Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. ¹⁵The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for

the work. ¹⁷Moreover, there were at my table men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. ¹⁸Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | *Because of the Fear of God*

SERMON NOTES

CLI #11172124

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OFFERTORY

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 chapel on your way back to your seat after communion.

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.

For All the Saints

Words by William How | Music by Christopher Miner | ©1997 Christopher Miner Music

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Allelu...

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Allelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way,
Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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*

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!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider verses 1-5. What is the nature of the people's outcry?
2. How does Nehemiah handle the situation after he takes counsel with himself?
3. What is one of Nehemiah's concerns in verse 9? How does the church today fail to walk in the fear of the Lord? How do we encourage the taunts of those outside the church?
4. In this situation, what did justice look like?
5. How does Nehemiah exemplify good leadership? How does he lead by example (verses 14-19)?

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 24

Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, April 26

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 1

9am

Youth Group | Room 118 & 135

Elementary Sunday School | Room 200

Tuesday, May 3

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 10

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 15

9am

Youth Group | Room 118 & 135

Elementary Sunday School | Room 200

Tuesday, May 17

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Thursday, May 19

12-1pm

Men's Lunch | TBD

Sunday, May 22

Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, May 24

6:30am

Final Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer is Coming!

General registration for VBS at PCPC (June 7th-10th) is open. VBS Family Night is June 3rd; Mercy will help host and will need volunteers to man stations. If you have questions, please reach out to Allison Ellis, our VBS coordinator (allison.h.ellis@gmail.com). Mercy's first ever *Backyard Bible Club* will begin the week of June 27th. Contact Emily (emily@mercydallas.com) for more information.

Infants and Children

A mother's room is available for feeding and calming infants; it is located in the office space just outside the left exit door in the sanctuary.

Nursery is available for infants (Nursery Room) and toddlers (Room 135).

Children's Church (4 years-2nd Grade) meets weekly during the sermon in Room 200.

Elementary Sunday School (3rd-5th Grade) meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 9-10am.

Contact Emily Freeman at emily@mercydallas.com for more information.

Youth Group

5/1, 5/15

Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9am. 8th - 12th in Room 118 and 6th & 7th in Room 135. Each 4th Sunday, youth have the opportunity to serve as part of the Set Up or Welcome Team. For more information, contact Josh and Hannah Patch at youth@mercydallas.com.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 6:30-7:30am at Cindi's Deli (11111 N US 75-Central Expy. 75243). Contact church@mercydallas.com for further information.

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 Nokes (jessica@mercydallas.com) for further information.

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.

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

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