



MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

APRIL 3, 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 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 3, 2022

REFLECTION

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

- Thomas Aquinas

A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything.

- Friedrich Nietzsche

The principle part of faith is patience.

- George MacDonald

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 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Jesus Everlasting King

Words by Isaac Watts & Matthew S. Smith | Music by Matthew S. Smith | ©2003 detuned radio music (ASCAP)

Jesus, everlasting King, accept the tribute which we bring
Accept the well-deserved renown and wear our praises as Your crown.

O send Your Spirit to impart rest and repentance to our hearts,
Like the dear hour when from above we first received Your pledge of love.
Jesus, everlasting King, accept the tribute which we bring
Accept the well-deserved renown and wear our praises as Your crown.

The gladness of redemption's day, our hearts would wish it long to stay,
Nor let our faith forsake its hold, nor comforts sink, or love grow cold.
Jesus, everlasting King, accept the tribute which we bring
Accept the well-deserved renown and wear our praises as Your crown.

May every time of worship see your grace revealed more rich and free,
Till we are raised to sing Your name at the great supper of the Lamb.
Jesus, everlasting King, accept the tribute which we bring
Accept the well-deserved renown and wear our praises as Your crown.

O that the months would roll away and bring the coronation day;
The King of Grace shall fill the throne with all His Father's glories on.
Jesus, everlasting King, accept the tribute which we bring
Accept the well-deserved renown and wear our praises as Your crown.

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*

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

American Folk Hymn | Public Domain

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great “I Am”;
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

MERCY MOMENT | *Pastor Search Team*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS | *Membership Vows*

Nathan, Laura, Parker, Ben and Bess Murray

Josh, Jessica, Beckett, Tate, Archer, Wilder, Silas and Staley Nokes

Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q23

What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius

Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

Not What My Hands Have Done

Words by Horatius Bonar | Music by Kevin Twit | ©2001 Keven Twit Music

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers, and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin
Thy blood alone O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee
Can rid me of This dark unrest, and set my spirit free!

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy power alone O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do,
No strength save that, which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfaltering lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt, I bury in His tomb
My unbelief, and all my fear, each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace, I trust His truth and might
He calls me His, I call Him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
'Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | *Nehemiah 2:1-8*

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | *Corporate Identity*

SERMON NOTES

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.

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

Mighty God We Thank and Praise Thee (Joyful Joyful)

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

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*

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.

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

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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. How would you describe Nehemiah's attitude and actions in approaching King Artaxerxes?
2. What made Nehemiah sad? What about the state of God's people today makes you sad?
3. Consider verse 4. What is Nehemiah consistently doing when faced with a challenging situation? What role does prayer play in your life?
4. Consider verses 7-8. How do Nehemiah's additional requests demonstrate his faith? Why does Nehemiah think he was successful?
5. What is your takeaway from this portion of Nehemiah? How does this passage challenge you to move forward in new directions?

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 3

9am
Youth Group | Room 118 & 135
Elementary Sunday School | Room 200

Tuesday, April 5

6:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, April 10

10am
Palm Sunday Worship | Chapel

Tuesday, April 12

6:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Thursday, April 14

7-8pm
Maundy Thursday Service | Chapel

Sunday, April 17

No Sunday School/Youth Group
10am
Easter Sunday Worship | Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 19

6:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Thursday, April 21

12-1pm
Men's Lunch | Shake Shack | Preston/Royal

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
10am
Palm Sunday Worship | Chapel

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

Palm Sunday

The children of Mercy will be participating in our Palm Sunday service by leading the congregation in singing *All Glory Laud and Honor*. Please take some time to practice the song with your children prior in the coming weeks. A link to the song can be found in the weekly email.

Maundy Thursday

Mercy will hold a Maundy Thursday service from 7-8pm on April 14th in the Chapel. Nursery will be available for ages 0-3.

Mercy Kids

Registration for adult volunteers for VBS at PCPC (June 7-10) is open. General registration for children ages 5 through rising 4th graders will open April 20. If you register as a VBS volunteer, you may register your children to participate at the same time. (*Childcare is available for children of volunteers ages 0-5.) More information below and online (<https://pcpc.org/events/detail/30415/vbs-2022-wild-kingdom/>). VBS Family Night is June 3; Mercy will help to host this event and we volunteers to man stations. Even if you are not participating in VBS but can help or want to participate, you are welcome!

Dates are coming soon for Mercy's first ever Backyard Bible Club! We will use PCPC's curriculum and enjoy time building relationships as a church family as we pour into our kids. Youth, get ready to mark your calendars too because we will need your help!

If you have questions, please reach out to Emily (emily@mercydallas.com) or to Allison Ellis, our VBS coordinator (allison.h.ellis@gmail.com).

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. They will not meet on Easter Sunday (April 17).

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

Youth Group

4/3, 5/1, 5/22

Youth Group will not meet on Easter Sunday (April 17).

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). The next men's lunch is Thursday, 4/21 from 12-1pm at Shake Shack at Preston/Royal. 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

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MINISTRY STAFF

Interim Pastor

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Ministry Coordinator

Jessica Nokes | jessica@mercydallas.com

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