



MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

MAY 1, 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 | May 1, 2022

REFLECTION

The way to Heaven is ascending; we must be content to travel uphill, though it be hard and tiresome, and contrary to the natural bias of our flesh.

- Jonathan Edwards

At the timberline where the storms strike with the most fury, the sturdiest trees are found.

- Hudson Taylor

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 145:1-7

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Kevin Twit | ©1996 Kevin Twit Music

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, o forgive," they cry, "forgive him, o forgive," they cry,
Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of His Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood, the Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

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*

Holy God, Father most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled. Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Our sins trouble us, O God. We are troubled by how they have hurt others. We are troubled by how they have hurt us. Your ways are right! O righteous God! And whenever we have refused to follow them we have found out how right they are. Have mercy on us, O God, for the sake of Christ, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies, The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

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

The Gospel Is Good News Indeed

Words by William Gadsby | Music by Benj Pocta | ©Red Mountain Music

The gospel is good news indeed,
To sinners deep in debt;
The man who has no works to plead,
Will thankful be for it.

To know that when he's nought to pay,
His debts are all discharged,
Will make him blooming look as May,
And set his soul at large.

No news can be compared with this,
To men oppressed with sin;
Who know what legal bondage is,
And labor but in vain.

Freedom from sin and Satan's chains,
And legal toil as well,
The gospel sweetly now proclaims;
Which tidings suit them well.

How gladly does the prisoner hear,
What gospel has to tell!
'Tis perfect love that casts out fear,
And brings him from his cell.

The man that feels his guilt abound,
And knows himself unclean,
Will find the gospel's joyful sound,
Is welcome news to him.

MERCY MOMENT | *Pastor Search Team*

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q28

How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

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*

The Christian's Hope Can Never Fail

Words from the Gadsby Hymnal | Music by Benj Pocta | ©2006 by Red Mountain Music

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | *Nehemiah 6:1-19*

Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),²Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm.³And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"⁴And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.⁵In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.⁶In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king.⁷And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together."⁸Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind."⁹For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it

will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands. ¹⁰Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night.” ¹¹But I said, “Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in.” ¹²And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me. ¹⁴Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid. ¹⁵So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. ¹⁷Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah’s letters came to them. ¹⁸For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. ¹⁹Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | *Strengthen My Hands*

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.

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Words by Henry Lyte | Music by Bill Moore | ©2001 Bill Moore Music

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me; Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me while Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure, with Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee, child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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*

2 John 3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

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. In the beginning of the chapter, how do Sanballat and the rest of the opposition seek to undermine Nehemiah?
2. How does the opposition create a false narrative to try and get Nehemiah in trouble with the king? Have you ever been the subject of a false narrative?
3. How does Nehemiah detect treachery in verses 10-13? How might you detect the lies of the enemy in your life?
4. Why do the nations become afraid (verse 16)? Both Nehemiah and the opposition demonstrate fear of God. Nehemiah trusts in the fear of the Lord; the opposition is afraid in the fear of the Lord. What is the difference?
5. What is your takeaway from this passage?

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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 5th; 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

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