



MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

MAY 15, 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 15, 2022

REFLECTION

"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but he has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

- Augustine

"We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive."

- C. S. Lewis

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 32:1-7

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgive the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words by Folliott Pierpoint | Music by Conrad Kocher | Public Domain

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thyself, best Gift Divine.
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in Heaven.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

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*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jesus, I Come

Words by William True Sleeper | Music by Greg Thompson | ©Greg Thompson Music, 2000

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q31

Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES

Lucy Kate Buell

Samuel Anders Schuhmacher

Molly Ross Tompkins

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*

Fairest Lord Jesus

Anonymous | 18th c. tune | Public Domain

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | *Nehemiah 9:1-3, 24-37*

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ²And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.

²⁴So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. ²⁵And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness. ²⁶"Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. ²⁷Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

²⁸But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. ²⁹And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. ³⁰Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. ³²"Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. ³³Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. ³⁴Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. ³⁵Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. ³⁶Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. ³⁷And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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*

Come for the Feast is Spread

Words by Henry Burton | Music by Greg Thompson

Come, for the feast is spread, hark to the call;
Come to the living Bread, offered to all.
Come to His house of wine, there on His breast recline,
All that He has is thine; come, sinners, come.

Come where the fountain flows, river of life;
Healing for all thy woes, doubting, and strife.
Millions have been supplied; no one was e'er denied;
Come to the crimson tide; come, sinners, come.

Come to the throne of grace, boldly draw near;
He who would win the race must tarry here.
Whate'er thy want may be, here is the grace for thee,
Jesus thine only plea; come, sinners, come.

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*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, he will surely do it.

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. What is the community in Jerusalem committing itself to in verses 1-3?
2. What do verses 24-25 describe? Israel became fat on God's goodness. Have you become fat on God's goodness? What might this look like today?
3. Why did God hand Israel into the hand of their enemies? How does this help us to understand some suffering?
4. A refrain throughout this chapter, and found in verse 29, is that the people "stiffened their neck." How do you stiffen your neck?
5. In verses. 32-37, how do the people recognize God's mercy?

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 15
9am
Youth Group | Rm 118 & 135
Elementary Sunday School | Rm 200
4-6pm
Youth Social | The Village

Tuesday, May 17
6:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Thursday, May 19
12-1pm
Men's Lunch | Torchy's | Preston/Forest

Sunday, May 22
Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, May 24
6:30am
Final Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, June 5
5-7pm
VBS Kick-off Party | PCPC
7-9pm
Youth Group | Fesler's Home

Tuesday, June 7
9am-12pm
VBS @ PCPC | PCPC
6-8pm
Summer Lecture Series | Social Hall

Wednesday, June 8
9am-12pm
VBS @ PCPC | PCPC

Thursday, June 9
9am-12pm
VBS @ PCPC | PCPC

Friday, June 10
9am-12pm
VBS @ PCPC | PCPC

Saturday, June 11
Men's Night | Russo's Home

Sunday, June 12
7-9pm
Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, June 14
9am-12pm
Mercy Summer Park Playdate | TBD

Sunday, June 19
7-9
Youth Group | Anderson's Home

Tuesday, June 21
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Sunday, June 26
Youth Volunteer Sunday
7-9pm
Youth Group | TBD

Monday, June 27
9am-11pm
Mercy's Backyard Bible Club | TBD

Tuesday, June 28
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Wednesday, June 29
9am-11pm
Mercy's Backyard Bible Club | TBD

Thursday, June 30
9am-11pm
Mercy's Backyard Bible Club | TBD

Sunday, July 3
7-9pm
Youth Group | Tompkin's Home

Tuesday, July 5
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD
6-8pm
Summer Lecture Series | Social Hall

Tuesday, July 12
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Sunday, June 12
7-9pm
Youth Group | Fesler's Home

Tuesday, July 19
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Sunday, July 24
Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, July 26
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Tuesday, August 2
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Tuesday, August 9
9am-12pm
Family Park Playdate | TBD

Thursday, August 11
6-8pm
Summer Lecture Series | Social Hall

Sunday, August 21
7-9pm
Youth Group | Fesler's Home

Sunday, August 28
Youth Volunteer Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Margin for Blessing

Scripture overwhelmingly values community built upon Christian friendship. Sadly, our lives are often so busy that we fail to make Christian friendship a priority. If “iron sharpens iron,” then we risk becoming rather dull, and we risk missing the blessings God intends for us as we invest in one another. This summer, we’re offering a program called Margin for Blessing, which is intended to connect people intergenerationally for fellowship over the summer. If you have questions, follow up with Joanna (women@mercydallas.com) or Ryan Tompkins (ryan@mercydallas.com).

Summer is Coming!

Family Night at Park Cities Presbyterian is June 5 from 5-7pm. This kick off party is a great opportunity for families to get a sneak peek at what the children will be learning and doing at both VBS and Back Yard Bible Club. There will be lots of food, games, bounce houses, and fun! All are welcome! Mercy’s first ever *Backyard Bible Club* runs Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30. 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) does not meet during the summer months.

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

Youth Group

5/15

This is the last week for Sunday Morning Youth Group. This Summer, youth will meet Sunday evenings at rotating houses. The schedule will be listed on the calendar. On the 4th Sunday of each month, youth have the opportunity to serve as part of the Set Up or Welcome Team. For more information about the youth ministry and schedule, 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). May 24 is the final meeting for the spring. 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	SESSION session@mercydallas.com
Interim Pastor Rev. Ryan Tompkins ryan@mercydallas.com	Jon Buell Dave Nelson Rev. Ryan Tompkins Tim Swindell
Ministry Coordinator Jessica Nokes jessica@mercydallas.com	DEACONS deacons@mercydallas.com
Children’s Ministry Coordinator Emily Freeman emily@mercydallas.com	Thomas Buerger Brett Cast Eric Clay Micah Cunningham Bryan Hatfield Adam Huebner Phil Vanderhill Thomas Walter Tyler Welsh
Women’s Ministry Coordinator Joanna Dawson women@mercydallas.com	
Director of Music Sal Bautista music@mercydallas.com	
Youth Group Leaders youth@mercydallas.com Josh and Hannah Patch Thomas and Katherine Walter	
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