



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

JULY 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 I Corinthians

Do you ever feel like there are so many diverging opinions in the church that it seems impossible to enjoy real unity? Sometimes people suggest this is a new problem - that pluralistic cultures rubbing against one another with different values are a product of postmodernity. That is not the case.

Corinth was a bustling city in 50 AD, about the time that Paul came as an apostle of Jesus Christ. It was a relatively new city - exploding with growth due to trade and cultural capital. One commentator likens Corinth to San Francisco during the gold rush. The city was composed of people from all over the Mediterranean world, which meant that the church was composed of people with very different views and opinions.

The church in Corinth became confused about how to handle a number of difficult cultural issues, and they ran into trouble when they allowed cultural values to shape their practice of Christianity. The church in Corinth wrote to Paul asking for clarity, and 1 Corinthians is Paul's response to their questions and struggles.

In his response, Paul returns again and again to the centrality of the cross, which is a demonstration of God's wisdom. "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God." (3:18-19a). Paul calls the Corinthians, and therefore Mercy, to return to the cross in order to understand true wisdom. Together, we will pursue becoming fools in relation to the wisdom of this world so that we might know God's wisdom.



ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Lord's Day | July 3, 2022

REFLECTION

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

- Nelson Mandela

A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.
- Bob Dylan

The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.

- Albert Camus

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

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

Psalm 131

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high;

I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Written by John Newton | Music by Laura Taylor | Laura Taylor Music ©2001

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

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*

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailiness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom. Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Revelation 5:6, 9-10

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain ... And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

His Love Can Never Fail

Words by E.S. Hall | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©2004

I do not ask to see the way
My feet will have to tread;
But only that my soul may feed
Upon the living Bread.
'Tis better far that I should walk
By faith close to His side;
I may not know the way I go,
But oh, I know my Guide.

His love can never fail,
His love can never fail,
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray,
They cannot, for I know
That Jesus guides my falt'ring steps,
As joyfully I go.
And tho' I may not see His face,
My faith is strong and clear,
That in each hour of sore distress
My Savior will be near.

His love can never fail,
His love can never fail,
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.

I will not fear, tho' darkness come
Abroad o'er all the land,
If I may only feel the touch
Of His own loving hand.

And tho' I tremble when I think
How weak I am, and frail,
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.

His love can never fail,
His love can never fail,
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q40 & 41

Why did Christ have to suffer death?

Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

Why was he "buried"?

His burial testifies that he really died.

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*

It Is Well With My Soul

Words by Horatio Spafford | Music by Philip Bliss | Public Domain

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul"
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING | *1 Corinthians 9:1-27*

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? ⁸Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? ⁹For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹²If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel

of Christ. ¹³Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. ¹⁵But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | *Am I Not Free?*

SERMON NOTES

INTERLUDE

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | *The family meal of Christians*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, making us in your image. We praise you for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who by His death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Savior's word, may share in victory and eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hallelujah! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Hallelujah!

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who have believed the good news, have repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.

Please consider offering your tithes as a physical act of worship by placing your offering in the tithe box located at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Awakening

Lord Jesus, I have heard from the Bible for years, and have been in church for years, but very little of this seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the badness of the bad news. 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.

To Christ the Lord Let Every Tongue

Words by Laura Taylor, Samuel Stennett | Music by Laura Taylor | Laura Taylor Music ©2001

To Christ the Lord let every tongue
Its noblest tribute bring
When He's the subject of the song
Who can refuse to sing?
Survey the beauties of His face
And on His glories dwell
Think of the wonder of His grace
And all His triumphs tell

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned
Upon His awful brow
His head with radiant glories crowned
His lips with grace overflow
No mortal can with Him compare
Among the sons of men
Fairer He is than all the fair
That fill the Heavenly train

He saw me plunged in deep distress
He fled to my relief
For me He bore the shameful cross
And carried all my grief
His hand a thousand blessings pours
Upon my guilty head
His presence gilds my darkest hours
And guards my sleeping bed

To Him I owe my life and breath
And all the joys I have
He makes me triumph over death
And saves me from the grave
To Heaven the place of His abode
He brings my weary feet
Shows me the glories of my God
And makes my joy complete

Since from His bounty I receive
Such proofs of love divine
Had I a thousand hearts to give
Lord, they should all be Thine
A thousand men could not compose
A worthy song to bring
Yet Your love is a melody
Our hearts can't help but sing!

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*

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 does Paul mean when he writes in verse 1, “Am I not free?”
2. Consider verse 12. What freedoms do you possess that might be an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
3. Consider verses 15-18. In what else, other than the gospel, are you tempted to boast?
4. Consider verses 19-23. What might it look like for you to “become all things to all people?”
5. Consider verses 24-27. How is your training? Where might you exercise greater discipline?

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 3

7-9pm

Youth Group | Tompkin's Home

Tuesday, July 5

9am-12pm

Family Park Playdate | Flagpole Hill

6-8pm

Summer Series | Social Hall

Sunday, July 10

11:15am

Congregational Meeting | Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 12

9am-12pm

Family Park Playdate | Cottonwood Park

Sunday, July 17

7-9pm

Youth Group | Thomason's Home

Tuesday, July 19

9am-12pm

Family Park Playdate | Arbor Hills

Saturday, July 23

2-4pm

Women's Book Swap | Brunaugh's Home

Sunday, July 24

Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, July 26

9am-12pm

Family Park Playdate | Churchill Park

Tuesday, August 2

9am-12pm

Family Park Playdate | Watermark Tree Fort

Tuesday, August 9

6-8pm

Summer Series | Social Hall

Sunday, August 21

7-9pm

Youth Group | Dawson's Home

Sunday, August 28

Youth Volunteer Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, July 10, immediately following the worship service, Mercy will have a congregational meeting. The 2022-2023 fiscal budget will be presented and the Articles of Incorporation will be reviewed. Please make every effort to attend.

Crates for Ukraine

MTW missionaries Doug and Masha Shepherd have reached out to our Presbytery with a specific way we can help them minister in the midst of the war in Ukraine. They have sent us lists of supplies that we can pack and take to their team in Krakow, Poland, who will then distribute the aid to those most in need in Ukraine. To get involved or for more information, contact Elizabeth Cunningham (cunningham.maryelizabeth@gmail.com). Mercy hopes to send one more courier this summer.

Summer is Here!

Family Park Playdates resume this Tuesday from 9am-12pm. This week families will meet at Flagpole Hill Park. Future parks are listed in the weekly email and the worship guide. 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 does not meet during the summer. Contact Emily Freeman at emily@mercydallas.com for more information.

Youth Group

This Summer, youth will meet Sunday evenings at rotating houses. The schedule is listed in the weekly email and the worship guide. 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.

Women's Ministry

The women's summer social is Saturday, July 23 from 2-4pm at the Brunaugh's home: 9928 Acklin Dr, Dallas. Join us for a time of fellowship as we enjoy snacks and swap books! Bring some books you would like to trade out and learn more about what others have been enjoying reading lately. Any genre is welcome, kids books included. Or just come for the food and company!

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.

Summer Series: Jerusalem and Athens

Have you ever felt like you don't belong in this world? Have you felt ill-equipped to respond intelligently to the cultural issues of our day? Do you know how to express the hope you have within you in the face of adversity? Join us for dinner, fellowship, and conversation at the Temple for our Summer Series as we discuss our citizenship in the city of God and the city of Man. We will meet from 6-8pm on July 5th and August 9th. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Contact church@mercydallas.com with any questions. Suggested age is 13+.

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

Interim Pastor

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