



MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

JULY 31, 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 | June 31, 2022

REFLECTION

"The figure of the passing-away world, 1 Cor. vii. 31. is like an old man's face, full of wrinkles, and foul with weeping: we are waiting when Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, and shall come and wipe the old man's face."

- Samuel Rutherford

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 16:1-6

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

A Mighty Fortress is our God

Words and Music by Martin Luther | Public Domain

A mighty fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient Foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear for God hath willed, His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him!
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever!

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*

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Isaiah 12:2-3

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

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

Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Words by George Matheson | Music by Christopher Miner | ©1997 Christopher Miner Music

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

MERCY MOMENT | *PST Update*

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q45

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

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*

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Words by John Newton | Music by Wendell Kimbrough | Red Mountain Music ©2005

Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,
Hear what Christ the Savior says'
Every word should joy impart,
Change thy mourning into praise.
Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee,
May He help thee to believe;
Then thou presently will see
Thou has little cause to grieve.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed;
All thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I the High and Holy One,
Israel's God, by all adored,
As thy Savior will be known,
Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew,
And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew;
Thou shalt soon rejoice again;
Though I seem to hide my face,
Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space,
Ending in eternal peace.

Though afflicted, tempest tossed,
Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou can be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart;
All thy wastes I will repair;
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
And in thee it shall appear
What the God of love can do.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING | *Romans 8:18-23*

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. We groan to enjoy the restored creation.

2. We groan for our responsibility in the restored creation.

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.

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

Rock of Ages

Words by Augustus Toplady | Music by James Ward (1984)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

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 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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. Why is the suffering of this present time not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us?
2. Why was the creation subjected to futility?
3. How does the creation, and how do we, groan together in the pains of childbirth?
4. How does the hope of the redemption of our bodies inform our lives now?
5. How does the Spirit pray with and for us? How have you experienced this?
6. How do you apply the notion that God works all things for the good of those who love him?

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 11

Worship in the Chapel

Tuesday, September 13

9:30 - 11am

Women’s Bible Study | Dawson’s Home

Wednesday, September 14

Women’s Bible Study | TBD

Sunday, September 18

Fall Kickoff | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, September 20

9:30 - 11am

Women’s Bible Study | Dawson’s Home

Wednesday, September 21

Women’s Bible Study | TBD

Tuesday, September 27

9:30 - 11am

Women’s Bible Study | Dawson’s Home

Wednesday, September 28

Women’s Bible Study | TBD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date for Fall Kickoff!

Mercy's Fall Kickoff will be at the Temple on September 18th. Join us for games, food, fun and fellowship! Send Jessica an email (jessica@mercydallas.com) if you're interested in helping out.

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).

Summer Fun!

Family Park Playdate this week is Tuesday from 9am-12pm at Watermark's Tree Fort in Dallas. Future parks are listed in the weekly email and the worship guide. Contact emily@mercydallas.com for more information.

Youth Group

This Summer, youth will meet Sunday evenings at rotating houses. The schedule is listed on the calendar. The next meeting is August 21st at the Dawson's home. The 4th Sunday of each month (August 28th), 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 Bible Study will meet for a seven-week study. The Tuesday morning study begins September 13 and the Wednesday evening study begins September 14. Be on the lookout for a registration link. For information about our Women's Ministry, contact Joanna Dawson at women@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 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.

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 August 9th. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP for the August session by Thursday, August 4th, using the link found in the weekly email. Contact Jessica (jessica@mercydallas.com) with general questions or Ryan (ryan@mercydallas.com) for questions about content. 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

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