



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

AUGUST 14, 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 | August 14, 2022

REFLECTION

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

- Augustine

"Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did."

- 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*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

We Praise You, O God

Music by Julia B. Cory | Dutch Melody | Public Domain

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before You; we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers and mothers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been;
When perils o'ertake us, You never forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise;
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be 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*

Merciful Father, love is patient, but we are impatient. Love is kind, but we are unkind. Love does not envy or boast, but we desire and seek to be known. Love is not arrogant, but we are proud. Love is not rude, but we trample people in our way. Love does not insist on its own way, but we do. Love is not irritable or resentful, but we are filled with contempt. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but when wrongdoing benefits us then we look the other way. You have called us to love, but we find it so easy to opt for other ways of being. Forgive us, and in your mercy help us to love you and one another more deeply. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Take My Life and Let it Be

Words by Frances Ridley Havergal | Music by Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Public Domain

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

MERCY MOMENT | *Youth Ministry*

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q48

If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity that has been taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

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*

Holy Holy Holy

Words by Reginald Heber | Music by John Dykes | Public Domain

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING | *1 Corinthians 13*

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | *A More Excellent Way*

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. Enthral 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*

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Words by Samuel Stennett | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land;
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land;
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land;
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest?
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land;
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.

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 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

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. Consider 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What is Paul's point? At Mercy, what might we be prone to adore more than love?
2. Consider 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Pick two areas in which you struggle and describe why it is hard for you to exhibit love in those ways.
3. Consider 1 Corinthians 13:12. What does Paul mean? How do we "see dimly"?
4. Out of faith, hope, and love, why is love the greatest?
5. How can you grow in love this week?

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 21

7-9pm

Youth Group | Dawson's Home

Sunday, August 28

Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, September 13

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, September 14

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, September 18

Fall Kickoff | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, September 20

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, September 21

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, September 25

11:45am-1pm

Intro to Mercy | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, September 27

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, September 28

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 2

11:45am-1pm

Intro to Mercy | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, October 4

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 5

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 9

11:45am-1pm

Intro to Mercy | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, October 11

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 12

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Sunday, October 16

11:45am-1pm

Intro to Mercy | Temple Shalom

Tuesday, October 18

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 19

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

Tuesday, October 25

9:30 - 11am

Women's Bible Study | Dawson's Home

Wednesday, October 26

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | Nelson's Home

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.

Intro to Mercy

We are excited to resume our Intro to Mercy classes this fall in a four-week class format (9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16). We'll meet Sundays after church in September and October in the conference room at Temple Shalom. We will provide lunch and childcare. Come hear about Mercy's vision, mission, core values, theology, and how to get involved. Contact Jessica for more information or sign up via the link in the weekly email.

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).

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 this fall 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.

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

Rev. Ryan Tompkins | ryan@mercydallas.com

Ministry Coordinator

Jessica Nokes | jessica@mercydallas.com

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Emily Freeman | emily@mercydallas.com

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Josh and Hannah Patch

Nate and Cecile Foster

Glenn Lanier

Thomas and Katherine Walter

SESSION | session@mercydallas.com

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DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Brett Cast

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter