

CONNECTING

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 we could pray for, please email church@mercydallas.com. We would love the opportunity to join you in lifting 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.
- Give online at www.mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general
- Mail a check to Mercy Presbyterian Church, 6930 Alpha Rd., Dallas, TX 75240

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Doug Tharp | doug@mercydallas.com

Ministry Coordinator

Jessica Nokes | jessica@mercydallas.com

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Emily Freeman | emily@mercydallas.com

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Dawson | women@mercydallas.com

Director of Music

Sal Bautista | music@mercydallas.com

Youth Group Leaders

Josh and Hannah Patch
Nate and Cecile Foster
Sevee Alaniz

INTERIM SESSION

Rev. Doug Tharp

Senior Pastor | Mercy Presbyterian Church

Rev. David Rogers

Senior Pastor | Town North Presbyterian Church

Rev. Robbie Mills

Associate Director | Mission to the World Western Hub

Eric Horan

Ruling Elder | Park Cities Presbyterian

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US



PORTRAITS OF A KING

a study in kings and chronicles

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

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. A Mother's Room (the Blumen Room) is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one. The Blumen Room is a private space set with comfortable chairs and a changing station to the north of the sanctuary, and down the hall to the right.

Wednesday, November 1

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, November 7

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, November 8

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, November 12

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, November 14

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, November 15

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, November 21

No Men's Study

No Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 22

No Women's Bible Study

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 26

First Sunday of Advent

No Elementary Sunday School

No Youth Group

Tuesday, November 28

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, December 10

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, December 17

7 - 8pm

Lesson's + Carols | TBD

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

No Elementary Sunday School

No Youth Group

10 - 11:30am

Sunday Morning Worship | Sanctuary

7 - 8pm

Christmas Eve Service | Chapel

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

10 - 11:30am

Sunday Morning Worship | Sanctuary

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 24

9 - 10am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
6 - 8pm
Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, September 26

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, September 27

7 - 8:30pm
Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, October 4

7 - 8:30pm
Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, October 8

9 - 10am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
6 - 8pm
Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, October 10

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, October 11

7 - 8:30pm
Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, October 17

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, October 18

7 - 8:30pm
Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, October 22

9 - 10am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
6 - 8pm
Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, October 24

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home

Wednesday, October 25

7 - 8:30pm
Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, October 29

Reformation Sunday

Tuesday, October 31

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Study | Cindi's Deli
9:30am - 11am
Women's Bible Study | The Thomason's Home



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lord's Day Worship | September 24, 2023

WELCOME

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 108:1-6

My heart is steadfast, O God!

**I will sing and make melody with all my being!
Awake, O harp and lyre!**

I will awake the dawn!
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

**I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

**That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer me!**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

O Worship the King

Words by Robert Grant | Music by Johann Haydn, arr. William Gardiner | Public Domain

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space,
Whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Ministry

Toddler Sunday School and Children's Church meet every Sunday. Elementary Sunday School (3rd - 5th grade) meets from 9-10am on 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings in Room 207. We have a great year of learning ahead! We still need volunteers weekly in both the nursery and toddler rooms. If you are interested in getting your family plugged into the children's ministry at Mercy or if you have a teen or pre-teen interested in helping, contact Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)!

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets on 2nd (the Church's Home) and 4th (the Morgan's Home) Sundays from 6-8pm. The next meeting is this Sunday, September 24th at the Morgan's Home (7051 Teakwood Dr., Dallas). Bring your Bible and feel free to bring a friend! We'll have some snacks, but eat dinner before you arrive! Questions? Email youth@mercydallas.com.

Women's Ministry

Mercy Women meet on Tuesday mornings (childcare available) or Wednesday evenings (childcare not available) to discuss Jen Wilkin's study of *The Sermon on the Mount*. Email Joanna (women@mercydallas.com) with any questions regarding the women's ministry.

Men's Ministry

Mercy Men meet Tuesday mornings at 6:30am to read and discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis at Cindi's Deli in Dallas (11111 N Central Expy). Contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com) for more information.

Mercy Financial Update

For questions about giving, expenses or Mercy's budget, you can reach out to Bryan Hatfield (bryan@mercydallas.com).

2023/2024 Budget	\$655,000
July 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023 Expenses	\$80,288
July 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023 Giving	\$78,386
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$1,902)</i>

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.

BENEDICTION | *God sends us out into the world with His blessing*

Psalm 23:6

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

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!**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace*

from Psalm 51:1-4; 17-18

**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!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem....**

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Hebrews 4:14-16

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have
a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one
who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us
then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive
mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman | Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard | Public Domain

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

We Will Glorify

Words and Music by Twila Paris | Singspiration Music/ASCAP ©1982

We will glorify the King of kings
We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords
Who is the great I am.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty
We will bow before His throne
We will worship Him in righteousness
We will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth
He is Lord of all who live
He is Lord above the universe
All praise to Him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings
Hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords
Who is the great I am.

What Wondrous Love is This

American Folk Hymn | Old English Ballad | Public Domain

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great "I Am";
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Britton and Beth Church

Caleb Church

Lillian Church

Adleigh Church

Brad and Susan Cope

Blake Edwards

Kelly Mills

Sage Moreno

Jason and Jenni Purser

**Caroline Jane Purser*

**Cate Joy Purser*

**Clayton Stone Purser*

Alanna Stephenson

Nicole Tharp

Simon Tharp

Jude Tharp

Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Parental Vows

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

Westminster Confession of Faith | Chapter 2.1 & 2.3 | Of God, and of the Holy Trinity

There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal, most just, and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION | We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by John Darwell | Public Domain

Rejoice, the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
And take his servants up
To their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years. ²And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. ³He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim ⁴and commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment.

⁹Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. ¹⁰And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. ¹¹And Asa cried to the Lord his God, "O Lord, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O Lord, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." ¹²So the Lord defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

⁷At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. ⁸Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the Lord, he gave them into your hand. ⁹For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." ¹⁰Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON NOTES