

HE IS RISEN!



SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 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.



REFLECTION

"The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the pioneer of life. He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so."

-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

Christ the Lord is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed!

He has broken the bands of death.

He has set His people free!

The Lord is lifted up.

The Lord is lifted up over all!

The Lord reigns.

The Lord reigns in heaven and on earth!

Oh, magnify the Lord with me.

And let us exalt His name together!

HYMN OF RESURRECTION | We sing praises to our risen King

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Lyra Davidica | Public Domian

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia! Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia! Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

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.

SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN OF CONFESSION | We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace

By Thy Mercy

Words by James J. Cummins | Music by Greg Thompson | @2004 Greg Thompson

Jesus, Lord of life and glory, Bend from heaven Thy gracious ear; While our waiting souls adore Thee, Friend of helpless sinners, hear:

From the depth of nature's blindness, From the hardening power of sin, From all malice and unkindness, From the pride that lurks within,

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

When temptation sorely presses, In the day of Satan's power, In our times of deep distresses, In each dark and trying hour.

When the world around is smiling, In the time of wealth and ease, Earthly joys our hearts beguiling, In the day of health and peace.

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

In the weary hours of sickness, In the times of grief and pain, When we feel our mortal weakness, When all human help is vain. In the solemn hour of dying, In the awful judgment day, May our souls, on thee relying, Find thee still our Rock and Stay.

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

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

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

The Sands of Time are Sinking

Words by Anne Cousin | Traditional Folk Tune | ©2001 Philip Palmertree Music

The sands of time are sinking, the dawn of heaven breaks; The summer morn I've sighed for - the fair, sweet morn awakes: Dark, dark had been the midnight but dayspring is at hand, And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

The king there in His beauty, without a veil is seen: It were a well-spent journey, though seven deaths lay between: The Lamb with His fair army, doth on Mount Zion stand, And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain, the deep, sweet well of love! The streams on earth I've tasted more deep I'll drink above: There to an ocean fullness His mercy doth expand, And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment, but her dear Bridegroom's face; I will not gaze at glory but on my King of grace. Not at the crown He giveth but on His pierced hand; The Lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel's land.

O I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine! He brings a poor vile sinner into His house of wine I stand upon His merit - I know no other stand, Not e'en where glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | We confess what we believe

The Heidelberg Catechism | Q26

What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

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

Worship Christ, the Risen King

Words by Jack Hayford | Music by Henry Smart | Annamarie Music & New Spring Publishing Co. ©1986

Rise O Church and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell; Sing as all the earth rejoices, resurrection anthems swell. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Risen King.

See the tomb where death had laid Him, empty now its mouth declares; Death and I could not contain Him, for the throne of life He shares. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Risen King.

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r; All hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand His hour. He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord the Risen King.

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer; But the truth proclaims a wonder, thoughtful hearts receive with cheer. He is risen, he is risen, now receive the Risen King.

We acclaim Your life O Jesus, now we sing Your victory; Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but Your conquest keeps us free. Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ the Risen King.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | Nehemiah 4:1-14; 21-23

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ²And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" ⁴Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem. and to cause confusion in it. 9And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. 10 In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." 11 And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." ¹²At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times. "You must return to us."

¹³So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²² I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." ²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Ryan Tompkins | Do Not Be Afraid

SERMON NOTES

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.

Halleluiah! 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Words by Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring | Music by George Elvey | Public Domain

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne. Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul and sing of Him Who died for thee, And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side, Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, But downward bends His wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave, Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save. His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high, Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Father known, One with the Spirit through Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne, To Thee be endless praise for Thou for us hast died; Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time, Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me; Thy praise shall never never fail throughout eternity.

Mighty God We Thank and Praise Thee (Joyful Joyful)

Words by Wendell Kimbrough | Music by Ludwig van Beethoven | ©2012 Wendell Kimbrough

Mighty God we thank and praise You For this meal, this Bread of Life! Precious blood and body, broken, From your Son our Savior Christ.

In these myst'ries you assure us We are members of your Son. Heirs of your eternal Kingdom, With all faithful people One.

Humbly now we ask you, Father, In your grace to make us strong That, with all the saints before us, In good works we may press on!

Send us out to love and serve you! Send us out to sing your praise! Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Pow'r and glory to your name!

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

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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. How did Sanballat, Tobiah, and company seek to undermine the faith of Nehemiah and the people? How do the devil, the world, and the flesh seek to undermine your faith?
- 2. How does Nehemiah pray for his enemies in verses 4-6? Do we pray this way about our enemies? Why or why not?
- 3. Consider verse 9. How are faith and action appropriately combined? How do you combine faith and action in your life?
- 4. Nehemiah is a good example of leadership because he does what he calls his people to do. How do you lead by example?
- 5. What is your takeaway? What part of the passage challenges you?

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, April 19

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Thursday, April 21

12-1pm

Men's Lunch | Shake Shack | Preston/Royal

Saturday, April 23

Mercy Clean Out

Sunday, April 24

Youth Volunteer Sunday

Tuesday, April 26

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 1

9am

Youth Group | Room 118 & 135

Elementary Sunday School | Room 200

Tuesday, May 3

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 10

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 15

9am

Youth Group | Room 118 & 135

Elementary Sunday School | Room 200

Tuesday, May 17

6:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immediate Mercy Service Opportunity

Volunteers needed to help organize the church trailer on Saturday, April 23rd from 9-11am. Please contact Adam Huebner if you can help. Fresh kolaches rumored to be onsite!

Summer is Coming!

General registration for VBS at PCPC (June 7th-10th) opens April 20th.

VBS Family Night is June 3rd; Mercy will help host and will need volunteers to man stations. Dates are coming soon for Mercy's first ever *Backyard Bible Club*! If you have questions, please reach out to Emily (emily@mercydallas.com) or to Allison Ellis, our VBS coordinator (allison.h.ellis@gmail.com).

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 (3^{rd} - 5^{th} Grade) meets on 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Sundays from 9-10am. They will not meet on Easter Sunday (April 17).

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

Youth Group 5/1, 5/14

Youth Group will not meet on Easter Sunday (April 17).

Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9am. 8th - 12th in Room 118 and 6th & 7th in Room 135. Each 4th Sunday, youth have the opportunity to serve as part of the Set Up or Welcome Team. For more information, 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). The next men's lunch is Thursday, 4/21 from 12-1pm at Shake Shack at Preston/Royal.

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

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

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Dawson | women@mercydallas.com

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Sal Bautista | music@mercydallas.com

Youth Group Leaders | youth@mercydallas.com

Josh and Hannah Patch

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Thomas Walter

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