



MERCY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Galatians

Celebrating God's Faithfulness as Gospel People

JANUARY 14, 2024

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.

Connection Points

If you are a visitor, regular attender or member, we would love the chance to connect with you outside of Sunday mornings! Use the QR code below to receive more information about community groups and other ministries, as well as to communicate changes to your personal information.

Community Groups are a vital part of Mercy's ministry and worship. **The Weekly Update** is our email newsletter and the primary way we communicate announcements, information about church life, and details about upcoming events. Your **Prayer Requests** matter to us! If there is any way that we can pray for you, we would love the opportunity to join you in lifting your needs before the Lord. Use the QR code below or email church@mercydallas.com to connect with us!





ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lord's Day Worship | January 14, 2024

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 89:1-9

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

**You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,**

a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

O Lord God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O Lord,
with your faithfulness all around you?

**You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

How Firm a Foundation

Words by R. Keene | Traditional Melody | Public Domain

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

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.

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

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *by Rev. Doug Tharp*

Most gracious and heavenly Father, we confess to you our failing to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. You have given us all that is good; you have called us as your beloved children; you have sealed us with your Spirit. Yet we continue to live as orphans, clinging to our kingdoms rather than to you. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

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

Revelation 21:5-6

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, & Michael Farren | CityAlight Music ©2018

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

MERCY MOMENT | *10th Anniversary Jubilee*

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Jason Purser*

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.

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

All Glory Be to Christ

Traditional Scottish Folk Tune | Dustin Kensrue | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2012

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To You who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist it vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

His will be done His Kingdom come
On Earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living waters satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

When on the day the Great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain
Is making all things new

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast Light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *Galatians 1:1-10* | *Rev. Doug Tharp*

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—²and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *The Gospel in Peril*

SERMON NOTES

1. What's the big problem? (6-10)

2. What's the big solution? (1-5)

OFFERTORY | *Joyfully giving His tithes and our offerings in response to His grace*

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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND THANKSGIVING

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. While we are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under your table, we nonetheless come, gracious Lord, because we have been bought with a price. So we give thanks for our savior and shepherd Jesus Christ, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

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!**

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*

Mighty God We Thank and Praise You

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

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!

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Words by Louisa Stead | Music by William Kirkpatrick | Public Domain

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know "Thus saith the Lord!"
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me, 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

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 67:1-3

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise 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!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mercy's Tenth Anniversary!

Join us as we celebrate all that the Lord has done for us at Mercy's Tenth Anniversary Jubilee Dinner! We'll have an evening of dinner and fellowship next Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 6-9pm at Communion Cooperative (514 Lockwood Dr., Richardson). This celebration will be adults only. The opportunity to RSVP will close at 1pm on Sunday, January 14th.

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 still need volunteers weekly in both the nursery and toddler rooms. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to the children's ministry at Mercy or if you have a teen or pre-teen interested in helping, contact Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)! The next Elementary Sunday School is Sunday, January 28th.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group is back this Sunday, January 14th for our usual meeting from 6-8pm at the Church's Home (3970 Cobblestone Cir., Dallas)!

Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study resumes this week with a new series on Romans 1-7; look for registration information in the Weekly Email. The Tuesday morning study will be led by, and meet at, the home of Joanna Dawson from 9:30-11am. The Wednesday evening study will be led by Paige Buell at the home of Katherine Walter from 7-8:30pm. This study will meet from January 15/16 - end of April, with breaks for Spring Break and Holy Week. Contact Joanna (women@mercydallas.com) with questions or for more information.

Men's Ministry

Men's Bible Study resumes this month with a new series on Romans 1-7; look for registration information in the Weekly Email. The men meet on Tuesday mornings from 6:30am-7:30am at Cindi's Deli (11111 N Central Expy., Dallas). This study will meet from January 15 - end of April, with a break for Spring Break in March. Contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com) with questions or for more information.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 14

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, January 16

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, January 17

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, January 21

6 - 9pm

Tenth Anniversary Jubilee | Communion

Tuesday, January 23

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, January 24

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, January 28

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, January 31

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Friday, February 2

5pm

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Saturday, February 3

All Day

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Sunday, February 4

8am

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, February 7

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, February 11

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, February 13

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, February 14

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, February 21

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, February 25

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, February 27

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, February 28

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, March 6

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, March 10

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, March 12

No Bible Studies This Week | Spring Break

Wednesday, March 13

No Bible Studies This Week | Spring Break

Tuesday, March 19

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, March 20

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Monday, March 25

BreakFast Service | TBD

Tuesday, March 26

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

No Women's Studies This Week | HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 27

No Women's Studies This Week | HOLY WEEK

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday Service | Chapel

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND GIVING

Giving

If you have questions about giving, expenses or budget at Mercy, or would like more information, contact Bryan Hatfield (bryan@mercydallas.com).

If you would like to give to the work and worship of Mercy Presbyterian Church, you can:

- Mail a check to: Mercy Presbyterian Church, 6930 Alpha Rd., Dallas, TX 75240
- Place checks or cash in the offering box located by the door as you exit the sanctuary.
- Give by scanning the QR code:



2023/2024 Budget	\$655,000
July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 Expenses	\$194,392
July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 Giving	\$143,711
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$50,687)</i>

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 | youth@mercydallas.com

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 Church

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter