



MERCY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Galatians

Celebrating God's Faithfulness as Gospel People

MARCH 3, 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](mailto: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](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us!





## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lord's Day Worship | March 3, 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 136:1-3; 23-26*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
he who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

*Arise, My Soul, Arise*

*Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©1996*

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;  
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;  
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,  
My name is written on His hands.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;  
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;  
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race,  
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;  
He cannot turn away the presence of His Son;  
The Spirit answers to the blood, the Spirit answers to the blood  
And tells me I am born of God.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear  
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,  
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

**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** | *from The Worship Sourcebook*

**Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Zephaniah 3:14-17*

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!*

*Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.*

*The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.*

*On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:*

*“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.*

*The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

*Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart*

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

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

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

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

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

## CONFESSON OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

*Young Communicants Catechism | 12 & 13*

What do you think of your own righteousness and strength with respect to your salvation?

**I look upon my own righteousness and strength as insufficient to answer the demands of God's law, and therefore I renounce them, and flee to a Surety for both, saying, In the Lord Jesus only have I righteousness and strength; and I am content and resolved to make use of a borrowed strength for my performing of duty, and of a borrowed righteousness for my acceptance in duty.**

How do you like this self-denying way of saving lost souls?

**I am well pleased with it, as it makes me an eternal debtor to free grace, as it doth exclude all boasting and glorying in the creature, and ascribes all the glory of my salvation to Christ only; as it takes the crown off the head of self, and puts it upon the head of glorious Christ.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**



*In Christ Alone*

*Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©2002*

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Galatians 4:8-20* | Nate Foster

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? <sup>10</sup>You observe days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain. <sup>12</sup>Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. <sup>13</sup>You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, <sup>14</sup>and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup>Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? <sup>17</sup>They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. <sup>18</sup>It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, <sup>19</sup>my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! <sup>20</sup>I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | *Rev. Doug Tharp* | Don't Turn Back!

**SERMON NOTES**

1. Don't Turn Back from Gospel Progress (8-11)

## 2. Don't Turn Back from God's People (12-20)

**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.*

*To Christ the Lord*

*Words by Laura Taylor, Samuel Stennett | Music by Laura Taylor | Laura Taylor Music ©2001*

To Christ the Lord let every tongue  
Its noblest tribute bring  
When He's the subject of the song  
Who can refuse to sing?  
Survey the beauties of His face  
And on His glories dwell  
Think of the wonder of His grace  
And all His triumphs tell

He saw me plunged in deep distress  
He fled to my relief  
For me He bore the shameful cross  
And carried all my grief  
His hand a thousand blessings pours  
Upon my guilty head  
His presence gilds my darkest hours  
And guards my sleeping bed

To Him I owe my life and breath  
And all the joys I have  
He makes me triumph over death  
And saves me from the grave  
To Heaven the place of His abode  
He brings my weary feet  
Shows me the glories of my God  
And makes my joy complete

Since from His bounty I receive  
Such proofs of love divine  
Had I a thousand hearts to give  
Lord, they should all be Thine  
A thousand men could not compose  
A worthy song to bring  
Yet Your love is a melody  
Our hearts can't help but sing!

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

*Words and Music by Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore | Drink Your Tea Music ©2015*

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,  
He is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood.  
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night before the dawn,  
My soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning O how long?  
O God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave,  
Bind us together bring shalom.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no 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*

*1 Timothy 1:17*

*To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and 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!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Children's Ministry***

Toddler Sunday School and Children's Church meet every Sunday. Elementary Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) meets from 9-10am on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Youth Ministry***

Youth Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at alternating homes. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for some socials in March! Youth guys will have a video game night - time and date TBD. On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> a Craft Cafe for the ladies will be from 2-4pm at The Foster's. Email the Patches at youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

### ***Women's Ministry***

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at the home of Joanna Dawson from 9:30-11am. The Wednesday evening study meets at Katherine Walter's home from 7-8:30pm. This study will meet through the 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***

The Mercy Men's Retreat is scheduled for April 12 (6-9pm) and April 13 (8am-4pm). We'll hear from Dr. Steven Foster on *Heelcatcher: The Story of Jacob*. On Tuesday mornings the men meet from 6:30am-7:30am at Cindi's Deli (11111 N Central Expy., Dallas). This semester we're studying Romans 1-7, meeting from January 23 through the end of April, with a break for Spring Break in March. Contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com) with questions or for more information.

## CALENDAR

### **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 | TBD

### **Tuesday, March 12**

No Bible Studies This Week | Spring Break

### **Wednesday, March 13**

No Bible Study 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

### **Saturday, March 23**

2-4pm

Youth Ladies Craft Cafe | The Foster'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**

6:30-8:30 pm

BreakFast Service | The Thomason's Home

### **Tuesday, March 26**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

No Women's Study This Week | HOLY WEEK

### **Wednesday, March 27**

No Women's Study This Week | HOLY WEEK

### **Thursday, March 28**

6:30-7:30pm

Maundy Thursday Service | Chapel

### **Saturday, March 30**

10am - 11:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt | Huffhines Park

### **Sunday, March 31**

*Easter Sunday*

### **Tuesday, April 2**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, April 3**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

**Tuesday, April 9**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, April 10**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

**Friday, April 12**

6 - 9pm

Men's Retreat | The Morgan's Home

**Saturday, April 13**

8am - 4pm

Men's Retreat | TBD

## 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:



<b>2023/2024 Budget</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023 Expenses	\$345,373
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023 Giving	\$330,112
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$15,261)</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