



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

**MARCH 26, 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](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 is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one. The office to the north of the sanctuary is a private space set with comfortable chairs and a changing station.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lord's Day Worship | March 26, 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 89:1-5*

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!**

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

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Carl G. Gläser | Arranged by Lowell Mason | Public Domain*

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thro' all the earth abroad  
The honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood availed for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heaven.

**DOXOLOGY** | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

**Heavenly Father, we have wandered from your arms this week. We have sought satisfaction in our sins, and have loved this world more than your grace. We have acted as those who have not tasted and known your love. Forgive us! Cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*From John 14:6, 18-20, 27*

*Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

***Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)***

*Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, John Newton & Louie Giglio | 2006 Rising Springs Music*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** | *We confess what we believe*

*Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 12, Of Adoption*

*All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba; Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.*

**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*

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Anonymous | 18th c. tune | Public Domain*

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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



I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! <sup>2</sup>For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup>For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. <sup>6</sup>Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. <sup>7</sup>Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup>I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. <sup>9</sup>And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. <sup>10</sup>As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. <sup>11</sup>And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! <sup>12</sup>And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. <sup>13</sup>For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Potato Head Gospel*

**SERMON NOTES**



## INTERLUDE

### CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | *The family meal of Christians*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, making us in your image. We praise you for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who by His death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Savior's word, may share in victory and eternal life.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Hallelujah! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Hallelujah!**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

*The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who have believed the good news, have repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.*

*Please consider offering your tithes as a physical act of worship by placing your offering in the tithe box located at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

### **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

### **Prayer for Awakening**

*Lord Jesus, I have heard from the Bible for years, and have been in church for years, but very little of this seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the badness of the bad news. 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 Let Every Tongue*

*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

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned  
Upon His awful brow  
His head with radiant glories crowned  
His lips with grace overflow  
No mortal can with Him compare  
Among the sons of men  
Fairer He is than all the fair  
That fill the Heavenly train

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!

**SENDING SONG** | *We are sent as God's people into the world as we trust His promises*

### *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

*Words by Christopher Wordsworth | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997*

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:  
On Thee, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,  
Sing holy, holy, holy, to the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation, the light first had its birth;  
On Thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;  
On Thee, our Lord, victorious, the Spirit sent from heav'n,  
And thus on Thee, most glorious, A triple light was giv'n.

Thou art a port protected, from storms that round us rise;  
A garden intersected, with streams of paradise;  
Thou art a cooling fountain, in life's dry dreary sand;  
From Thee, like Pisgah's mountain, we view our promised land.

Today on weary nations, the heav'nly manna falls;  
To holy convocations, the silver trumpet calls,  
Where gospel light is glowing, with pure and radiant beams,  
And living water flowing, with soul-refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining, from this, our day of rest,  
We reach the rest remaining, to spirits of the blessed.  
To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;  
The Church her voice upraises, to Thee, blessed Three in One.

**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*

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us  
and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your  
hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

**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

### ***Palm Sunday***

On Palm Sunday, April 2nd, the children of Mercy are invited to process into the sanctuary waving palms and singing at the beginning of the service. We will sing *Hosanna* by Hillsong. Since this may be a new song for some, please listen to and sing along with the song several times as a family over the coming weeks.

### ***Mercy Children***

Nursery is available weekly for infants (Nursery Room). Sunday School is available for toddlers during the service. Children (4 years-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) are dismissed from the service during the sermon for Children's Church. Elementary Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) meets at 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. If you have any questions or would like to get involved with our children's ministry, please email Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com).

### ***Youth Group***

Youth Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings at rotating homes. Youth will meet tonight, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. High school students should bring their catechism; all students should come with their Bibles! The date for the Progressive Dinner has changed to Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the youth ministry and schedule, contact Josh and Hannah Patch at youth@mercydallas.com.

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

A book study of Hannah Anderson's, *Humble Roots: How Humility Grounds and Nourishes Your Soul*, meets on either Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings. For questions regarding the women's ministry at Mercy, contact Joanna Dawson (women@mercydallas.com).

### ***Men's Ministry***

The men's Bible study meets Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30am, at Cindi's Deli (11111 N Central Expy), as usual. We are studying the book of Ephesians where Paul calls us to examine every area of our lives in light of the gospel, including marriage, family, and work. There is no text to order for this study; we will use some prepared questions and Bible study methods to work through the letter together.

### ***Mercy Financial Update***

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

<b>2022/2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>
July 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023 Expenses	\$455,256
July 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023 Giving	\$429,775
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$25,481)</i>

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, March 26**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | TBD

### **Tuesday, March 28**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Book Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Wednesday, March 29**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Book Study | The Nelson's Home

### **Thursday, March 30**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

## HOLY WEEK

### **Sunday, April 2**

*Palm Sunday + Holy Week Begins*

6 - 7pm

Prayer | The Freeman's Home

### **Monday, April 3**

Midnight - 1am

Prayer | The Bryant's Home

6 - 7am

Prayer | The Nelson's Home

Noon - 1pm

Prayer | The Boland's Home

6:30 - 8:30pm

BreakFast Service + Dinner | The Thomason's

### **Tuesday, April 4**

*No Women's Book Study*

### **Wednesday, April 5**

*No Women's Book Study*

### **Thursday, April 6**

*No Men's Bible Study*

6:30 - 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday Service | Chapel

### **Saturday, April 8**

10am - 12pm

Easter Egg Hunt | Huffhines Park

### **Sunday, April 9**

*No Sunday School or Youth Group*

10 - 11:30am

Easter Sunday | Temple Shalom

**Tuesday, April 11**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Book Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, April 12**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Book Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, April 13**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Tuesday, April 18**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Book Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, April 19**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Book Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, April 20**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Sunday, April 23**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | The Thomason's Home

**Tuesday, April 25**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Book Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, April 26**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Book Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, April 27**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Saturday, April 29**

Youth Progressive Dinner | TBD

**Tuesday, May 2**

9:30 - 11am

Women's Book Study | The Dawson's Home

**Wednesday, May 3**

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Book Study | The Nelson's Home

**Thursday, May 4**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Thursday, May 11**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Sunday, May 14**

9 - 9:45am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 120

6-8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

**Thursday, May 18**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Saturday, May 20**

10 - 11:30am

Blessing Brunch | The Swindell's Home

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general](http://www.mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general)
- Mail a check to Mercy Presbyterian, P.O. Box 670035, Dallas, TX 75230

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## MINISTRY STAFF

### **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Doug Tharp | [doug@mercydallas.com](mailto:doug@mercydallas.com)

### **Ministry Coordinator**

Jessica Nokes | [jessica@mercydallas.com](mailto:jessica@mercydallas.com)

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

Emily Freeman | [emily@mercydallas.com](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com)

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

Joanna Dawson | [women@mercydallas.com](mailto:women@mercydallas.com)

### **Director of Music**

Sal Bautista | [music@mercydallas.com](mailto:music@mercydallas.com)

### **Youth Group Leaders** | [youth@mercydallas.com](mailto:youth@mercydallas.com)

Josh and Hannah Patch

Nate and Cecile Foster

Glenn and Maci Lanier

Thomas and Katherine Walter

## SESSION | [session@mercydallas.com](mailto:session@mercydallas.com)

Rev. Doug Tharp

Jon Buell

Dave Nelson

Tim Swindell

## DEACONS | [deacons@mercydallas.com](mailto:deacons@mercydallas.com)

Thomas Buerger

Brett Cast

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter