



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

**APRIL 16, 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 | April 16, 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 100*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

For the LORD is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

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

***Come Christians Join to Sing***

*Words by Christian Bateman | Traditional Spanish Folk Melody | Public Domain*

Come, Christians, join to sing alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

**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*

**Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed to be an obedient church: we have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*Psalm 32:3-5*

*For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

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

***His Love Can Never Fail***

*Words by E.S. Hall | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©2004*

I do not ask to see the way  
My feet will have to tread;  
But only that my soul may feed  
Upon the living Bread.  
'Tis better far that I should walk  
By faith close to His side;  
I may not know the way I go,  
But oh, I know my Guide.

His love can never fail,  
His love can never fail,  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray,  
They cannot, for I know  
That Jesus guides my falt'ring steps,  
As joyfully I go.  
And tho' I may not see His face,  
My faith is strong and clear,  
That in each hour of sore distress  
My Savior will be near.

His love can never fail,  
His love can never fail,  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.

I will not fear, tho' darkness come  
Abroad o'er all the land,  
If I may only feel the touch  
Of His own loving hand.  
And tho' I tremble when I think  
How weak I am, and frail,  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.

His love can never fail,  
His love can never fail,  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.

**MERCY MOMENT** | *Ethan Cope*

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

*The Scottish Confession of Faith: Chapters 9 & 10*

*We believe that our Lord Jesus offered himself a voluntary sacrifice unto his Father for us, that he suffered contradiction of sinners, that he was wounded and plagued for our transgressions, that he, the clean innocent Lamb of God, was condemned in the presence of an earthly judge, that we should be absolved before the judgment seat of our God; that he suffered not only the cruel death of the cross, which was accursed by the sentence of God; but also that he suffered for a season the wrath of his Father which sinners had deserved.*

*But yet we avow that he remained the only, well beloved, and blessed Son of his Father even in the midst of his anguish and torment which he suffered in body and soul to make full atonement for the sins of his people. And we undoubtedly believe, since it was impossible that the sorrows of death should retain in bondage the Author of life, that our Lord Jesus crucified, dead, and buried, who descended into hell, did rise again for our justification, and the destruction of him who was the author of death and its bondage.*

## 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*

*Jesus With Thy Church Abide*

*Words by Thomas Benson Pollock | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997*

Jesus, with Thy church abide;  
Be her savior, Lord, and Guide,  
While on earth her faith is tried:  
We beseech Thee, hear us,  
We beseech Thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure;  
Grant her patience to endure,  
Trusting in Thy promise sure:  
We beseech Thee, hear us,  
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be,  
One in truth and charity,  
Winning all to faith in Thee:  
We beseech Thee, hear us,  
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind,  
Seek the lost until she find  
And the brokenhearted bind:  
We beseech Thee, hear us,  
We beseech Thee, hear us.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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



I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. <sup>17</sup>What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. <sup>18</sup>Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. <sup>19</sup>For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! <sup>20</sup>For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup>on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup>And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

<sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup>but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Robbie Mills | *What a Letdown*

**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.*

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

*Words by Henry Lyte | Music by Bill Moore | Bill Moore Music ©2001*

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shall be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,  
They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
O while Thou dost smile upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me;  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation  
Rise o'er sin and fear and care  
Joy to find in every station,  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
Heaven's eternal days before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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

***This is My Father's World***

*Words by Maltbie Davenport Babcock | Music by Franklin Lawrence Sheppard | Public Domain*

This is my Father's world,  
And to my list'ning ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings,  
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,  
O let me ne'er forget,  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heav'n be 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*

*Colossians 3:15-17*

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**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 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 next on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm at the Church's home. High school students should bring their catechism; all students should come with their Bibles! The date for the Progressive Dinner is 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

### **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 Church'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

### **Sunday, May 7**

6:30 - 8:30pm

Guys' Senior Sendoff | The Morgan's Home

### **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 Thomason'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

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