



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MERCY TO US | MERCY THROUGH US

MAY 21, 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.

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 | May 21, 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 66:1-41

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words by Folllott Pierpoint | Music by Conrad Kocher | Public Domain

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

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*

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Psalm 103:8-12

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

O God Beyond All Praising

Words by Michael Perry | Music by Gustav Theodore Holst | Michael Perry/The Jubilate Group ©1982

O God beyond all praising
We worship You today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay
For we can only wonder
At every gift You send
At blessings without number
And mercies without end
We lift our hearts before You
And wait upon Your word
We honour and adore You
Our great and mighty Lord

Then hear O gracious Saviour
Accept the love we bring
That we who know Your favour
May serve You as our king
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless You still
To marvel at Your beauty
And glory in Your ways
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ransom Kirk-Manuel Alaniz

PARENTAL VOWS

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was a result of the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. The creed emphasizes the doctrine of the Trinity in response to the teachings of Arius, a clergyman who denied the divinity of the Son, the second member of the Trinity.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE READING | *Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23* | *Grant Mobley*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Kingdom Soil*

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.

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.

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

The Christian's Hope Can Never Fail

Anonymous from The Gadsby Hymnal, 1838 | Music by Benj Pocta | Red Mountain Music ©2006

We travel through a barren land,
With dangers thick on every hand;
But Jesus guides us through the vale;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

Huge sorrows meet us as we go,
And devils aim to overthrow;
But vile infernals can't prevail;
O, The Christian's hope shall never fail.

Sometimes we're tempted to despair,
But Jesus makes us then His care;
Though numerous foes our souls assail;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word,
The oath and promise of the Lord;
And safely through each tempest sail;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

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*

Hebrews 13:20-21

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

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Bread Team

Our communion bread is baked each week by members of our congregation. Heading into summer, this team is looking to add more members into the rotation! If you're interested in learning more about this team, contact Shannon Watson (shannonawatson@gmail.com).

Mercy Midweek

Save the date for Mercy Midweek Dinners this summer on Wednesday, June 28th and Wednesday, July 26th. Further details to come. Childcare will be available with advance registration.

Summer Suppers

This summer, join your Mercy Family for casual "get to know you" Summer Suppers! Your group can decide to host in homes, head to a restaurant, or even potluck at a park. Ideally, each group will gather two to three times over the summer months. **Registration ends today, May 21st!** Contact Joanna Dawson (women@mercydallas.com) with any questions.

Women's Ministry

This summer, the women's ministry will host two socials. Join us on Thursday, July 20th for a Pie Party at the Nelson's Home and start gathering your books for a book swap on August 19th!

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).

2022/2023 Budget	\$630,000
July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 Expenses	\$500,149
July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 Giving	\$460,589
<i>Variance</i>	(\$39,560)

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 21

1 - 5pm

Mercy Membership Class | The Tharp's Home

Wednesday, June 28

6:30 - 8:30pm

Mercy Midweek | Temple Shalom

Thursday, July 20

7 - 8:30pm

Pie Party | The Nelson's Home

Wednesday, July 26

6:30 - 8:30pm

Mercy Midweek | Temple Shalom

Saturday, August 19

2 - 4pm

Book Swap | TBD

Sunday, August 27

12:30 - 2:30pm

Fall Kickoff | Mimosa Park

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.

Weekly Update

Our weekly email newsletter is the primary way we communicate announcements, information about church life, and details about upcoming events. Email church@mercydallas.com if you would like to receive weekly emails.

Prayer Requests

If you have a private matter that the session could be praying for, please email their private email at session@mercydallas.com. They would love the opportunity to lift your needs before the Lord.

Giving

If you would like to give to the work and worship of Mercy Presbyterian Church, you can do so in three ways:

- Place checks or cash in the offering box located by the door as you exit the sanctuary on Sundays.
- Give online at www.mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/to/general
- Mail a check to Mercy Presbyterian, P.O. Box 670035, Dallas, TX 75230

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

Thomas and Katherine Walter

SESSION | session@mercydallas.com

Rev. Doug Tharp

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Thomas Buerger

Brett Cast

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter