



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Lamentations

Gifted Grief

NOVEMBER 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

November 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 123*

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.**

*A Mighty Fortress is our God*

*Words and Music by Martin Luther | Public Domain*

A mighty fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;  
Our Helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient Foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;  
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;  
We will not fear for God hath willed, His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him!  
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever!

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

*from the Worship Sourcebook | A prayer of confession for cynicism*

**Father, you tell us in your Word  
that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.  
We confess that we have frequently relaxed our faith.  
We have allowed ourselves to become cynical,  
and our cynicism has boiled over  
with slander, criticism, prayerlessness, and pessimism.  
How easily we've allowed ourselves  
to crumple under the stresses of our lives.  
Forgive us for our smallness of faith.  
In your mercy, hear us,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

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

*Lamentations 3:21-24*

*But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:*

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."*

*Is He Worthy*

*Words and Music by Andrew Peterson & Ben Shive | Capitol ©2018*

Do you feel the world is broken  
We do  
Do you feel the shadows deepen  
We do  
But do you know that all the dark  
Won't stop the light from getting through  
We do  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new  
We do

Is all creation groaning (it is)  
It is  
Is a new creation coming (it is)  
It is  
Is the glory of the Lord  
To be the light within our midst (it is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this (it is)

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll  
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave  
He is David's Root  
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy of this  
He is

Does the Father truly love us (He does)  
He does  
Does the Spirit move among us (He does)  
He does  
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves  
He does  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us (He does)

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests  
To God to reign with the Son  
Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy, is He worthy  
Is He worthy of this  
He is

Is He worthy, is He worthy  
He is  
He is

*I Will Wait For You (Psalm 130)*

*Words and Muic by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, & Stuart Townend | Getty Music Publishing ©2018*

Out of the depths I cry to You,  
In darkest places I will call;  
Incline Your ear to me anew,  
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Were You to count my sinful ways,  
How could I come before Your throne?  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze;  
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
On Your word I will rely  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,  
Till my soul is satisfied.

So put your hope in God alone;  
Take courage in His power to save.  
Completely and forever won  
By Christ emerging from the grave.

His steadfast love has made a way  
And God Himself has paid the price  
That all who trust in Him today  
Find healing in His sacrifice

I will wait for You I will wait for You  
Through the storm and through the night  
I will wait for You surely wait for You  
For Your love is my delight



## CONFESSION OF FAITH | *from the Second Helvetic Confession*

What is the Gospel Properly Speaking?

The Gospel is properly called glad and joyous news, in which, first by John the Baptist, then by Christ the Lord himself, and afterwards by the apostles and their successors, is preached to us in the world that God has now performed what he promised from the beginning of the world, and has sent, nay more, has given us his only Son and in him reconciliation with the Father, the remission of sins, all fulness and everlasting life. Therefore, the history delineated by the four Evangelists and explaining how these things were done or fulfilled by Christ, what things Christ taught and did, and that those who believe in him have all fulness, is rightly called the Gospel.

The preaching and writings of the apostles, in which the apostles explain for us how the Son was given to us by the Father, and in him everything that has to do with life and salvation, is also rightly called evangelical doctrine, so that not even today, if sincerely preached, does it lose its illustrious title.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Tim Thomason*

### 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.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

I am the man who has seen affliction  
under the rod of his wrath;  
<sup>2</sup>he has driven and brought me  
into darkness without any light;  
<sup>3</sup>surely against me he turns his hand  
again and again the whole day long.  
<sup>4</sup>He has made my flesh and my skin waste away;  
he has broken my bones;  
<sup>5</sup>he has besieged and enveloped me  
with bitterness and tribulation;  
<sup>6</sup>he has made me dwell in darkness  
like the dead of long ago.  
<sup>7</sup>He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;  
he has made my chains heavy;  
<sup>8</sup>though I call and cry for help,  
he shuts out my prayer;  
<sup>9</sup>he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones;  
he has made my paths crooked.  
<sup>10</sup>He is a bear lying in wait for me,  
a lion in hiding;  
<sup>11</sup>he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces;  
he has made me desolate;  
<sup>12</sup>he bent his bow and set me  
as a target for his arrow.  
<sup>13</sup>He drove into my kidneys  
the arrows of his quiver;  
<sup>14</sup>I have become the laughingstock of all peoples,  
the object of their taunts all day long.  
<sup>15</sup>He has filled me with bitterness;  
he has sated me with wormwood.  
<sup>16</sup>He has made my teeth grind on gravel,  
and made me cower in ashes;  
<sup>17</sup>my soul is bereft of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;

<sup>18</sup>so I say, "My endurance has perished;  
so has my hope from the Lord."  
<sup>19</sup>Remember my affliction and my wanderings,  
the wormwood and the gall!  
<sup>20</sup>My soul continually remembers it  
and is bowed down within me.  
<sup>21</sup>But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup>"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."  
<sup>25</sup>The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.  
<sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.  
<sup>27</sup>It is good for a man that he bear  
the yoke in his youth.  
<sup>28</sup>Let him sit alone in silence  
when it is laid on him;  
<sup>29</sup>let him put his mouth in the dust—  
there may yet be hope;  
<sup>30</sup>let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,  
and let him be filled with insults.  
<sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not  
cast off forever,  
<sup>32</sup>but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
<sup>33</sup>for he does not afflict from his heart  
or grieve the children of men.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Lamentations 3*

**SERMON NOTES**

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

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.*

*Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

*Words by Anne Steel | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©1998*

Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone canst heal  
They Words can bring a sweet relief  
For every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I dear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Through prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,  
And shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace,  
Be deaf when I complain?  
No still the ear of sovereign grace,  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access,  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet,  
They mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

*Words by Thomas O. Chisholm | Music by William Marion Runyan | Public Domain*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



**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;

**BENEDICTION** | *God sends us out into the world with His blessing*

*Romans 15:5-6*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**DISMISSAL** | *God sends us out into the world*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Town Hall Meeting***

Please plan to attend the Fall 2024 Town Hall Meeting next Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm in the Chapel. Be sure to register via the link in the Weekly Email. The elders will provide updates on budget and finances, the shepherding plan, officer sabbatical policy, and a building update as needed. A summary of these updates will be sent out following the meeting. Contact Alison at [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) if you have any questions about attending.

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

Nursery, Toddler Sunday School (during church), Children's Church (during the sermon) and Elementary Sunday School (before church) meet every week. Volunteers in this ministry are always needed. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, contact Emily Freeman ([emily@mercydallas.com](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com))!

### ***Youth Ministry***

Youth Group at Mercy is for 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades and generally meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays from 6-8pm. **Due to the Town Hall Meeting, youth will meet at The Thomason's home from 5-6:30pm next week, on December 10<sup>th</sup>.** Contact [youth@mercydallas.com](mailto:youth@mercydallas.com) with any questions!

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, November 3**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

### **Tuesday, November 5**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Wednesday, November 6**

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Sunday, November 10**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Thomason's Home

6:30 - 8pm

Town Hall Meeting | The Chapel

### **Tuesday, November 12**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Wednesday, November 13**

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

### **Sunday, November 17**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

### **Tuesday, November 19**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

### **Wednesday, November 20**

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

**Sunday, November 24**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas (12727 Hillcrest Rd.)

**Tuesday, November 26**

*No Men's Bible Study*

**Wednesday, November 27**

*No Women's Bible Study*

**Thursday, November 28**

*Thanksgiving Day*

**Sunday, December 1**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

**Tuesday, December 3**

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

**Sunday, December 8**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Carols & Cookies | 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>2024/2025 Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$590,000</b>
July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Expenses	\$183,717
July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Giving	\$151,450
Variance	(\$32,267)

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Doug Tharp | doug@mercydallas.com

Church Administrator

Alison Thomas | church@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

Nate and Cecile Foster  
Sevee Alaniz  
Blake and Lilly Edwards

SESSION | church@mercydallas.com

Rev. Doug Tharp

Eric Clay

Jeff Dawson

Clark Morgan

Tim Thomason

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter