



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Lamentations

Gifted Grief

NOVEMBER 24, 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.

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 to connect with us!





ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 24, 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 135:1-7

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the name of the Lord,
give praise, O servants of the Lord,**

who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God!

**Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!**

For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel as his own possession.

**For I know that the Lord is great,
and that our Lord is above all gods.**

Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,
in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.

**He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,
who makes lightnings for the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.**

Only a Holy God

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren, Dustin Smith | CityAlight Music ©2016

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

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

from Christ-Centered Worship by Bryan Chapell | adapted from Psalms 51:15-17

All: O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Pastor: Our God tells us that the sacrifice he desires most is a broken and contrite heart. Let us bring him such sacrifice now in our prayers of confession.

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

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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

Sing to Jesus

Words and Music by Fernando Ortega & Rich Nibbe | Dejamesolo Music ©2002

Come and see, look on this mystery
The Lord of the universe, nailed to a tree
Christ our God, spilling His Holy blood
Bowing in anguish, His sacred head

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts, He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name
Sing of His faithfulness, pouring His life out unto death

Come you weary and He will give you rest
Come you who mourn, lay on His breast
Christ who died, risen in Paradise
Giver of mercy, Giver of life

Sing to Jesus His is the throne throne
Now and forever He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing for the love our God has shown

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts
He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name

Sing to Jesus His is the throne the throne
Now and forever He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing for the love our God has shown

HYMN OF GRACE | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

Abide With Me

Words by Henry Lyte | Music by Justin Smith | Justin Smith Music ©2007

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

DEACON'S OFFERING

Since the earliest days of the New Testament church, the deacons have taken a special offering to provide for those in need both inside and outside of the church. The Lord uses the generosity of His people to provide care that ministers to the whole person, meeting physical and mental needs while being attentive to the spiritual. Through this, we see God's mercy work through us to bless our church and community. Every fourth Sunday, our deacons provide Mercy an opportunity to give to this special offering.

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 | *Jeff Dawson*

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS | *Communicant Children*

Julia Dawson

Mags McKeaigg

Bess Murray

Membership Vows

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us;
look, and see our disgrace!
- ² Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,
our homes to foreigners.
- ³ We have become orphans, fatherless;
our mothers are like widows.
- ⁴ We must pay for the water we drink;
the wood we get must be bought.
- ⁵ Our pursuers are at our necks;
we are weary; we are given no rest.
- ⁶ We have given the hand to Egypt, and to Assyria,
to get bread enough.
- ⁷ Our fathers sinned, and are no more;
and we bear their iniquities.
- ⁸ Slaves rule over us;
there is none to deliver us from their hand.
- ⁹ We get our bread at the peril of our lives,
because of the sword in the wilderness.
- ¹⁰ Our skin is hot as an oven
with the burning heat of famine.
- ¹¹ Women are raped in Zion,
young women in the towns of Judah.
- ¹² Princes are hung up by their hands;
no respect is shown to the elders.
- ¹³ Young men are compelled to grind at the mill,
and boys stagger under loads of wood.
- ¹⁴ The old men have left the city gate,
the young men their music.
- ¹⁵ The joy of our hearts has ceased;
our dancing has been turned to mourning.

- ¹⁶ The crown has fallen from our head;
 woe to us, for we have sinned!
- ¹⁷ For this our heart has become sick,
 for these things our eyes have grown dim,
- ¹⁸ for Mount Zion which lies desolate;
 jackals prowl over it.
- ¹⁹ But you, O Lord, reign forever;
 your throne endures to all generations.
- ²⁰ Why do you forget us forever,
 why do you forsake us for so many days?
- ²¹ Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored!
 Renew our days as of old—
- ²² unless you have utterly rejected us,
 and you remain exceedingly angry with us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Lamentations 5*

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.

Psalm 126

Words and Music by Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Orlando Palmer & Liz Vice | Bifrost Arts Music © 2012

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry

All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy
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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.

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*

Psalm 23:6

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officer Nominations

Nominations for Officers are open now through December 12th. Mercy members are welcome to nominate men (who are members of Mercy) who they believe are qualified to be elders or deacons. Please read through the **"Officer Nomination Guidelines"** and prayerfully consider your nomination which can be made using the form on our website or through the Weekly Email. For more information, see the town hall handout, Weekly Email, or reach out to Pastor Doug or one of the elders.

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)!

Youth Ministry

Youth Group at Mercy is for 6th - 12th grades and generally meets on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Youth Room from 6-8pm. Contact youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

Cookies + Carols

Save the date for our Cookies + Carols service on Sunday, December 8th from 4-6pm. Watch for details in the Weekly Email!

Christmas Eve Service

Make plans to join your Mercy family for a service on Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 24th from 5-6pm.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 24

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

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 101

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 101

4 - 6pm

Cookies & Carols | Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 22

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Tuesday, December 24

5 - 6pm

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 12

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Sunday, January 26

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Friday, January 31

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

Saturday, February 1

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

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, 12727 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75230
- Place checks or cash in the offering box located by the door as you exit the sanctuary.
- Give by scanning the QR code:



2024/2025 Operating Budget	\$590,000
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