



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



KINGDOM SONGS

○ COME, ○ COME EMMANUEL
GALATIANS 4:4-7

"God with Man is Now Residing"

DECEMBER 3, 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 (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

Lord's Day Worship | December 3, 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*

from Daniel 4:1-3

Peace be multiplied to you!

Let us proclaim the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for us!

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation. Great is the Lord!

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

Come and Worship

Words and Music by Jason Ingram and Bebo Norman | Appstreet Music ©2007

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er the Earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

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

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
We'll praise Your name forever, we'll praise your name forever.
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

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

Almighty God who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins. We have ignored the presence of your Spirit. We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge. We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned. In your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Rowland Prichard | Public Domain

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, day-spring from on high appear
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing news glad tidings of a birth
Go to Him your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness our Redeemer Shepherd Friend
Leaving riches without number born within a cattle stall
This the ever-lasting wonder Christ was born Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | *A sign of the coming light of Christ* | Charles & Sara Lam

based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." We rejoice that we too have found favor with God. God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

Heidelberg Catechism | Q&A 35 & 36

What is the meaning of these words "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary"?

That God's eternal Son, who is, and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that he might also be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.

What profit dost thou receive by Christ's holy conception and nativity?

That he is our Mediator; and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Erin Morgan*

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.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin Text | Translated by J.M. Neal | 15th c. French Franciscan Processional | Public Domain

O come, o come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come thou rod of Jesse free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come thou dayspring come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come desire of nations bind,
All people in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *Galatians 4:4-7*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *God with Man is Now Residing*

SERMON NOTES

1. Redemption from Sin

2. Relationship with Him

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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND THANKSGIVING

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us— even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came among us as the Word made flesh to show us your glory, full of grace and truth. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

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!**

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.

COMMUNION HYMN | *We celebrate the family meal of Christians*

O Come, All You Unfaithful

Music and words by Lisa Clow & Bob Kauflin | Sovereign Grace ©2020

O come all you unfaithful
Come weak and unstable
Come know you are not alone
O come barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

O come bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come taste of His perfect love
O come guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing
Come He is the offering
Come see what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Words by James Montgomery | Music by Henry Smart | Public Domain

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal three in one.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

GLORIA PATRI | *(Glory to the Father) We praise the Triune God*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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

Romans 15:12-13

And again Isaiah says,

*“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by
the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lessons + Carols

Join us on the evening of Sunday, December 17th for our traditional Lessons + Carols service in the Chapel. We'll worship from 6-7pm and follow with a dessert reception in the Social Hall for adults, and a Christmas Party for children in the children's area, from 7-8pm.

Mercy's Tenth Anniversary!

This will be a year to celebrate as we look back on the last ten years and remember the Lord's faithfulness to our church. We'll have several touch points throughout the year, but will start with the Tenth Anniversary Jubilee Dinner - an evening of dinner and fellowship - on Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 6-9pm at Communion Cooperative (514 Lockwood Dr., Richardson). This celebration will be adults only, but we look forward to including our entire church family in other ways throughout the year.

Children's Ministry

Toddler Sunday School and Children's Church meet every Sunday. Elementary Sunday School (3rd - 5th grade) meets from 9-10am on 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings in Room 207. We still need volunteers weekly in both the nursery and toddler rooms. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to the children's ministry at Mercy or if you have a teen or pre-teen interested in helping, contact Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)!

Youth Ministry

Make plans to attend our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10th from 6-8pm at the Morgan's Home (7051 Teakwood Dr., Dallas). \$10 limit and edible gifts only! Email youth@mercydallas.com with any questions you might have.

Women's Ministry

Registration for the Women's Retreat is live! Join us Friday, February 2nd at 5pm through the morning of Sunday, February 4th at Gathering Oaks Retreat Center in Waco! The cost for the weekend is \$125; scholarships available. Registration closes on December 15th. We are looking forward to spending that weekend with you! Bible Study will resume with a new series on January 16th and 17th.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Christmas Party | The Morgan's Home

Friday, December 15

Registration for Women's Retreat closes

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

6 - 7pm

Lessons + Carols | Chapel

7 - 8pm

Children's Party + Adult Reception | Social Hall

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

No Elementary Sunday School

No Youth Group

10 - 11:30am

Sunday Morning Worship | Chapel

6 - 7pm

Christmas Eve Service | Chapel

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 14

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, January 16

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, January 17

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Sunday, January 21

6 - 9pm

Tenth Anniversary Jubilee | Communion

Tuesday, January 23

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, January 24

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Sunday, January 28

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, January 31

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Friday, February 2

5pm

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Saturday, February 3

All Day

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Sunday, February 4

8am

Women's Retreat | Waco, TX

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, February 7

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Sunday, February 11

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, February 13

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, February 14

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, February 21

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Sunday, February 25

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Church's Home

Tuesday, February 27

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | TBD

Wednesday, February 28

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | 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:



2023/2024 Budget	\$655,000
July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 Expenses	\$194,392
July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 Giving	\$143,711
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$50,687)</i>

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

Sevee Alaniz

INTERIM SESSION

Rev. Doug Tharp

Senior Pastor | Mercy Presbyterian Church

Rev. David Rogers

Senior Pastor | Town North Presbyterian Church

Rev. Robbie Mills

Associate Director | Mission to the World Western Hub

Eric Horan

Ruling Elder | Park Cities Presbyterian Church

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Eric Clay

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter