



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## KINGDOM SONGS

*"Woe is Me, Poor Child, for Thee"*

COVENTRY CAROL  
JEREMIAH 31:15-26

DECEMBER 10, 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 (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

Lord's Day Worship | December 10, 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*

*based on Philippians 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always.

**I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

**The Lord is near.**

We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

**Let us worship God!**

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

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Greek text, paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie, 1864 | Public Domain*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand.  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
Comes, our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of heaven now incarnate  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Streams before him on the way,  
As the Light of light descending  
From the realms of endless day  
Comes, that pow'rs of hell may vanish,  
As the shadows pass away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

**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*

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

*based on Psalm 85:9-13*

*Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. Thanks be to God!*

***Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)***

*Words and Music by Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash | Rising Springs Music ©2009*

What hope we hold this starlit night  
A King is born in Bethlehem  
Our journey long, we seek the light  
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age  
Four-hundred years can He be found  
But broken by a baby's cry  
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
God incarnate, here to dwell  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
Praise His name Emmanuel

The son of God, here born to bleed  
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow  
And we beheld this offering  
Exalted now the King of kings  
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
God incarnate, here to dwell  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
Praise His name Emmanuel

Oh, praise His name Emmanuel  
Oh, praise His name Emmanuel

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** | *A sign of the coming light of Christ* | John & Jill MacLaughlin

*based on John 1:4-5; 12:46; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1:7*

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness. Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light. If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. We are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."

**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*

*Joy to the World!*

*Words by Isaac Watts | Music by George Frederick Handel | Arranged by Lowell Mason | Public Domain*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Jeremiah 31:15-26* | Nathan Murray

Thus says the Lord:

“A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.<sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.<sup>18</sup> I have heard Ephraim grieving, ‘You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the Lord my God.<sup>19</sup> For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’<sup>20</sup> Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the Lord.<sup>21</sup> “Set up road markers for yourself; make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went. Return, O virgin Israel, return to these your cities.<sup>22</sup> How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the Lord has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encircles a man.”<sup>23</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I restore their fortunes:

“The Lord bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill!’ <sup>24</sup>And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks. <sup>25</sup>For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.” <sup>26</sup>At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Woe is Me Poor Child, For Thee*

**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.**

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.*

*Coventry Carol*

*Traditional English Carol | 16th c. | Public Domain*

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.  
Thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay?”

Herod the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

*Traditional English Carol | 18th c. | Public Domain*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior,  
The true and radiant light,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And in true love and fellowship  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Is filled with heav'nly grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.



**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*

*1 Thessalonians 3:12-13*

*and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) meets from 9-10am on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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***

See you tonight at our Youth Christmas Party from 6-9pm 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm through the morning of Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Gathering Oaks Retreat Center in Waco! The cost for the weekend is \$125; scholarships available. Registration closes on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to spending that weekend with you! Bible Study will resume with a new series on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Look for registration information in the Weekly Email.

### ***Men's Ministry***

Men's Bible Study will resume with a new session on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Look for registration information in the Weekly Email.

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 10**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 9pm

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:



<b>2023/2024 Budget</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>
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