



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 15, 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 (Room 109) is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one.

## ***Connection Points***

If you are a visitor, regular attender or member, we would love the chance to connect with you outside of Sunday mornings! Email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us and 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. Email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us!



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 15, 2024

### WELCOME

**INVOCATION** | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** | *A sign of the coming light of Christ*

*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.*

**ADVENT READING** | *The VonderMehden Family*

***based on Isaiah 40:3, 5; 61:1, 11***

*Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus  
by making straight all that is crooked.  
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."  
Let us prepare for Jesus, the Christ,  
who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.  
For as a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

*based on Isaiah 9:2*

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;

**On those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.**

Jesus Christ is our life and light.  
In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

*Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Felix Mendelssohn | Public Domain*

Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ the ever lasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail! The heav'n born Prince of Peace,  
Hail the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth!  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!

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

**Lord, we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not waited to find your will for us.  
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.  
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.  
Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

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

*Zephaniah 3:14-17*

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

*He Who is Mighty*

*Words and Music by Rebecca Elliott & Kate DeGraide | Sovereign Grace Praise ©2014*

Oh, the mercy our God has shown  
To those who sit in death's shadow  
The sun on high pierced the night  
Born was the Cornerstone

Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born

He Who is mighty has done a great thing  
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting  
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame  
Holy is His name

Oh, the freedom our Savior won  
The yoke of sin has been broken  
Once a slave, now by grace  
No more condemnation

Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born

He Who is mighty has done a great thing  
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting  
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame  
Holy is His name, Holy is His name

Now my soul magnifies the Lord  
I rejoice in the God Who saves  
I will trust His unfailing love  
I will sing His praises all my days

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

### *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.



**CONFESSION OF FAITH** | *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** | *Peyton Bryant*

**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**

*During the children's sermon, pass the clipboards to check in and let us know you were here today!*

**CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Ruth 3* | Peyton Bryant

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? <sup>2</sup> Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. <sup>7</sup> And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! <sup>9</sup> He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings[a] over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. <sup>12</sup> And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the Lord lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." <sup>15</sup> And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. <sup>16</sup> And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, <sup>17</sup> saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" <sup>18</sup> She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Ruth 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.**

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

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

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*Words and Music by John Francis Wade | Public Domain*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God from true God, and light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes!  
Only-begotten Son of God the Father:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***Go Tell it on the Mountain***

*African-American Spiritual | Adapted by John W. Work | Public Domain*

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

**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.

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

*1 Thessalonians 5:22-24*

*Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

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



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Welcome Team***

**We need your help!** We are working on the schedule for the coming year and we need you! If you are interested in participating in the Welcome Team, please reach out to John or Jill MacLaughlin at 254-289-3609 or 254-541-5353. We appreciate your participation!

### ***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 in the Youth Room from 6-8pm. We will take a break for the Christmas season and resume meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>!

### ***Christmas Eve Service***

Make plans to join your Mercy family on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for a candlelight service celebrating the birth of Christ! Note that the time has been changed to 4 - 5pm. We look forward to worshipping with you!

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, December 22**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Tuesday, December 24**

4 - 5pm  
Christmas Eve Service

### **Sunday, December 29**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, January 5**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, January 12**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101  
6 - 8pm  
Youth Group | Mercy Dallas  
6 - 8pm  
Annual Vision Dinner | Mercy Dallas

### **Sunday, January 19**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **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

### **Sunday, February 2**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, February 9**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101  
6 - 8pm  
Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

### **Sunday, February 16**

9:30 - 9:50am  
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

## 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:



<b>2024/2025 Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$643,000</b>
July 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024 Expenses	\$226,656
July 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024 Giving	\$210,397
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$16,259)</i>

### 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