



# MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# KINGDOM SONGS

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS  
MATTHEW 11:25-30

*"Let Us Find our Rest in Thee"*

DECEMBER 17, 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 17, 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 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!

**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, 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.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**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!*

*15 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.*

*16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;*

*let not your hands grow weak.*

*17 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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**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** | *A sign of the coming light of Christ* | Josh & Bonney Burnett

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

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

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.

## 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.**

## BAPTISM | *We celebrate the sacrament of baptism*

*William Clayton Grabow*

### **Parental Vows**

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### **Congregational Vows**

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** | *Rev. Doug Tharp*

**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*

*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.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Matthew 11:25-30* | Emily Huebner

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Let Us Find Our Rest in 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.*

**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!



**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 5:23-24*

*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*

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 tonight 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](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com))!

### ***Youth Ministry***

Youth Group activities will pause during the Christmas holidays. We'll see you back on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> for our usual meeting from 6-8pm!

### ***Women's Ministry***

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 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