



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



KINGDOM SONGS

"Now my Soul Magnifies the Lord"

HE WHO IS MIGHTY
LUKE 1:39, 46-56

DECEMBER 31, 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 31, 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*

Psalm 136:1-3; 23-26

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

**and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;**

he who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

We Three Kings

Words and Music by John Hopkins | Public Domain

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

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*

from Psalm 119:81-88

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" O Lord, Help me! In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

Psalm 119:89-90

*Forever, O Lord, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol, 17th century | Public Domain

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us with all one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of naught
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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 | *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.

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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Holy is His name, Holy is His name

CHILDREN'S SERMON/CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *Luke 1:39-56* | *Colin LeCroy*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Now My Soul Magnifies the Lord*

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*

Immanuel

Words and Music by Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©1999

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled
With the praise of heav'n
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit
Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal
He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath He fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms
Giving glory to Immanuel

All Glory Be to Christ

Traditional Scottish Folk Tune | Dustin Kensrue | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2012

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To You who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist it vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

His will be done His Kingdom come
On Earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living waters satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

When on the day the Great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain
Is making all things new

**continued on the next page*

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast Light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

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*

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*

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

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)! The next Elementary Sunday School is Sunday, January 14th.

Youth Ministry

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

Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study will resume with a new series on January 16th and 17th. Look for registration information for the Romans 1-7 Study in the Weekly Email.

Men's Ministry

Men's Bible Study will resume with a new session on Tuesday, January 16th. Look for registration information for the Romans 1-7 Study in the Weekly Email.

CALENDAR

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:



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| 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