



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 17, 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.

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

November 17, 2024

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 89:1-8

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

**‘I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’”**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,**

a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

**O Lord God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O Lord,
with your faithfulness all around you?**

Psalm 73

Words by Kevin Twit and Mac Purdy | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©1995

Surely God is good
To all the pure in heart
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped
I nearly lost my grip
For I envied, the arrogant
They are free, from my burdens

Surely I, in vain,
Have kept my, my heart pure
And surely they are strong and free from trials
While I am so confused
Then I entered Your holy place
Then I saw their destiny

Surely, they're cast down
As those on slippery ground
As dreams fade when we wake, so they become
Completely swept away
In my heart I was arrogant
Like a beast before You

Yet always You are near
You guide me by Your Word
And always, my Lord God, You are my strength
My portion You will be
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord
I will sing of Your awesome deeds
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord
I will sing of Your awesome deeds

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

from Confessions of Sin & Assurances of Pardon, a Pocket Resource by Bobby Griffith

Holy Father, You see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of Your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from You and that to You all life returns. We have not sought to do Your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor lived as Christ loves us. Apart from You, we are nothing. Only Your grace can sustain us. Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin and restore us to the joy of Your salvation now and evermore. Amen.

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

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

House of God Forever

Words and Music by Jon Foreman | Rubadub Publishing Publishing ©2008

God is my shepherd
I won't be wanting
I won't be wanting
He makes me rest in fields of green
With quiet streams
Even though I walk through the valley
Of death and dying
I will not fear 'cause You are with me
You are with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me
You are my feast in the presence of enemies
Surely goodness will follow me
Follow me
In the house of God forever

God is my shepherd
I won't be wanting
I won't be wanting
He makes me rest in fields of green
By quiet streams
Even while I'm walking through the valley
Of death and dying
I will not fear 'cause You are with me
You're always with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me
You are my feast in the presence of enemies
Surely goodness will follow me
Follow me
In the house of God forever
(In the house of God forever)
(In the house of God forever)

Cornerstone

Words and Music by Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan | Hillsong Music Publishing ©2011

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all

What is the Gospel Properly Speaking?

The Gospel is properly called glad and joyous news, in which, first by John the Baptist, then by Christ the Lord himself, and afterwards by the apostles and their successors, is preached to us in the world that God has now performed what he promised from the beginning of the world, and has sent, nay more, has given us his only Son and in him reconciliation with the Father, the remission of sins, all fulness and everlasting life. Therefore, the history delineated by the four Evangelists and explaining how these things were done or fulfilled by Christ, what things Christ taught and did, and that those who believe in him have all fulness, is rightly called the Gospel.

The preaching and writings of the apostles, in which the apostles explain for us how the Son was given to us by the Father, and in him everything that has to do with life and salvation, is also rightly called evangelical doctrine, so that not even today, if sincerely preached, does it lose its illustrious title.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Clark 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *1 Peter 2:4-10* | Rev. Doug Tharp

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

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.

The Reign of Mercy

Words and Music by Kate Bluett & Paul Zach | Integrity's Alleluia! Music ©2021

Oh may our world at last be just
And hilltops echo with Your peace
The harvest come from barren dust
The reign of mercy never cease
He comes as rain upon the grass
High heaven's sun to earth descends
Not as the seasons that will pass
But with a light that never ends

Oh come to Him and find your rest
Who saw the poor and came as one
Who hears the cries of the oppressed
And rules till all oppression's done
Someday He'll come to reign as King
And we will see His justice done
Our souls will magnify and sing
The Christ whose kingdom now is come

And all the mighty and the strong
Will bow before Him on that day
The silenced fill the world with song
The poor and lowly He will raise
And all our bitterness and tears
Our violence and our endless wars
Will end at last when He draws near
Come soon, come soon O Christ our Lord

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
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

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

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

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us
and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your
hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officer Nominations

Nominations for Officers are open now through December 12th. Mercy members are welcome to nominate men (who are members of Mercy) who they believe are qualified to be elders or deacons. Please read through the "**Officer Nomination Guidelines**" and prayerfully consider your nomination which can be made using the form on our website or through the Weekly Email. For more information, see the town hall handout, Weekly Email, or reach out to Pastor Doug or one of the elders.

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)!

Youth Ministry

Youth Group at Mercy is for 6th - 12th grades and generally meets on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Youth Room from 6-8pm. Contact youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

Cookies + Carols

Save the date for our Cookies + Carols service on Sunday, December 8th from 4-6pm. Watch for details in the Weekly Email!

Christmas Eve Service

Make plans to join your Mercy family for a service on Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 24th from 5-6pm.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 17

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101
10 - 11:30am
Worship Service | Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, November 20

7:30 - 8:45pm
Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, November 24

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

Tuesday, November 26

No Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 27

No Women's Bible Study

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, December 8

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 101
4 - 6pm
Cookies & Carols | Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 12

Officer Nominations Close

Tuesday, December 24

5 - 6pm
Christmas Eve Service

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:



2024/2025 Operating Budget	\$590,000
July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Expenses	\$183,717
July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Giving	\$151,450
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$32,267)</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