



MERCY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Galatians

Celebrating God's Faithfulness as Gospel People

MARCH 10, 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

Lord's Day Worship | March 10, 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 27:1-6

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

**One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman | Shout! Publishing ©2011

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name

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;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *from The Worship Sourcebook*

Almighty God, since thou delayst with so much forbearance the punishments which we have deserved and daily draw on ourselves, grant that we may not indulge ourselves but carefully consider how often and in how many different ways we have provoked thy wrath against us. May we learn humbly to present ourselves to thee for pardon, and with true repentance implore thy mercy. With all our heart we desire to submit ourselves to thee, whether thou chastisest us, or according to thine infinite goodness, forgivest us. Let our condition be ever blessed, not by flattering ourselves in our apathy, but by finding thee to be our kind and bountiful Father, reconciled to us in thine only-begotten Son. Amen.

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

Joel 2:12-13

*“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.*

Psalm 130

Words by Martin Luther | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,

O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,

And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;

I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free

From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)

MERCY MOMENT | *Southern Methodist University RUF*

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

Young Communicants Catechism | 12 & 13

What do you think of your own righteousness and strength with respect to your salvation?

I look upon my own righteousness and strength as insufficient to answer the demands of God's law, and therefore I renounce them, and flee to a Surety for both, saying, In the Lord Jesus only have I righteousness and strength; and I am content and resolved to make use of a borrowed strength for my performing of duty, and of a borrowed righteousness for my acceptance in duty.

How do you like this self-denying way of saving lost souls?

I am well pleased with it, as it makes me an eternal debtor to free grace, as it doth exclude all boasting and glorying in the creature, and ascribes all the glory of my salvation to Christ only; as it takes the crown off the head of self, and puts it upon the head of glorious Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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*

How Long

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2016

How long Will You turn Your face away
How long Do You hear us when we pray
On and on still we walk this pilgrim way
How long

How long 'til Your children find their rest
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast
We go on holding to Your promises - How long

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain
Jesus give us hope again

How long 'til Your word will still the storm
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain
Jesus give us hope again

How long Sweet the dawn that ends the race
How long Weak our hearts but strong our legs
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses
How long

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain
Jesus give us hope again

Come then Jesus come

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *Galatians 4:21-31* | Reed Vanderhill

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | *Rev. Fee Kennedy* | The Gospel of Grace Foreshadowed

SERMON NOTES

OFFERTORY | *Joyfully giving His tithes and our offerings in response to His grace*

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

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. While we are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under your table, we nonetheless come, gracious Lord, because we have been bought with a price. So we give thanks for our savior and shepherd Jesus Christ, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 God Beyond All Praising

Words by Michael Perry | Music by Gustav Theodore Holst | The Jubilate Group ©1982

O God beyond all praising
We worship You today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay
For we can only wonder
At every gift You send
At blessings without number
And mercies without end
We lift our hearts before You
And wait upon Your word
We honour and adore You
Our great and mighty Lord

Then hear O gracious Saviour
Accept the love we bring
That we who know Your favour
May serve You as our king
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless You still
To marvel at Your beauty
And glory in Your ways
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise

Satisfied

Words by Clara T. Williams | Music by Karl Digerness | Cardiphonia Music ©2012

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within

Hallelujah! He has found me,
The One my soul so long has craved
Jesus satisfies all my longings,
Through his blood I now am saved.

Feeding on the filth around me
'Till my strength was almost gone.
Longed my soul for something better
Only still to hunger on

Hallelujah! He has found me,
The One my soul so long has craved
Jesus satisfies all my longings,
Through his blood I now am saved.

Well of water ever springing,
Bread of Life so rich and free.
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.

Hallelujah! He has found me,
The One my soul so long has craved
Jesus satisfies all my longings,
Through his blood I now am saved.

GLORIA PATRI | *(Glory to the Father) We praise the Triune God*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

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*

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Activities

Holy Week is a wonderful opportunity for us to take a deep breath, focus our attention on the work of Christ, and find encouragement as we pray and gather in faith. Join us as we kick things off with our Palm Sunday service. Our 24 hours of prayer and fasting will begin 6:30 pm Sunday and end with our BreakFast Service on Monday 6:30pm, with opportunities to gather for prayer in homes. Our Maundy Thursday service will take place at 6:30pm in the Chapel. An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday, March 30th at Huffhines Park - all of Mercy is welcome to attend, egg hunting for ages 0 - 5th grade. Finally, we will celebrate our risen Lord together on Easter Sunday!

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 March 10th.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at alternating homes. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 10th at the Fesler's Home (6940 Cliffbrook Dr.). Mark your calendars for some socials in March! Youth guys will have a video game night - time and date TBD. On Saturday, March 23rd a Craft Cafe for the ladies will be from 2-4pm at The Foster's. You can find an RSVP link in the Weekly Email. Questions? Email the youth team at youth@mercydallas.com!

Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at the home of Joanna Dawson from 9:30-11am. The Wednesday evening study meets at Katherine Walter's home from 7-8:30pm. This study will meet through the end of April, with breaks for Spring Break and Holy Week. Contact Joanna (women@mercydallas.com) with questions or for more information.

Men's Ministry

The Mercy Men's Retreat is scheduled for April 12 (6-9pm) and April 13 (8am-4pm). We'll hear from Dr. Steven Foster on *Heelcatcher: The Story of Jacob*. On Tuesday mornings the men meet from 6:30am-7:30am at Cindi's Deli (11111 N Central Expy., Dallas). This semester we're studying Romans 1-7, meeting from January 23 through the end of April, with a break for Spring Break in March. Contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com) with questions or for more information.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 10

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, March 12

No Bible Studies This Week | Spring Break

Wednesday, March 13

No Bible Study This Week | Spring Break

Tuesday, March 19

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, March 20

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Saturday, March 23

2-4pm

Youth Ladies Craft Cafe | The Foster's Home

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Monday, March 25

6:30-8:30 pm

BreakFast Service | The Thomason's Home

Tuesday, March 26

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

No Women's Study This Week | HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 27

No Women's Study This Week | HOLY WEEK

Thursday, March 28

6:30-7:30pm

Maundy Thursday Service | Chapel

Saturday, March 30

10am - 11:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt | Huffhines Park

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

Tuesday, April 2

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, April 3

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

9:30am - 11am

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, April 10

7 - 8:30pm

Women's Bible Study | The Walter's Home

Friday, April 12

6 - 9pm

Men's Retreat | The Morgan's Home

Saturday, April 13

8am - 4pm

Men's Retreat | 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:



2023/2024 Budget	\$655,000
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023 Expenses	\$345,373
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023 Giving	\$330,112
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$15,261)</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