



MERCY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Galatians

Celebrating God's Faithfulness as Gospel People

MARCH 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

Lord's Day Worship | March 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 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory!**

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by John Darwell | Public Domain

Rejoice, the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
And take his servants up
To their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

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 "Baker's Worship Handbook" by Paul Engle*

Almighty Father; we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.

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

1 Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman | Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard | Public Domain

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

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*

Fairest Lord Jesus

Anonymous | 18th c. tune | Public Domain

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

²Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹²I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | *Rev. Doug Tharp* | Gospel Freedom

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*

For All the Saints

Words by William Walsham How | Music by Christopher Miner | Public Domain

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, Allelu...

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia, Allelu...

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, Allelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed. Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way, Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All Must Be Well

*Words by Mary Bowley Peters, Matthew S. Smith | Music by Matthew S. Smith | Detuned Radio Music
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Through the love of God our Savior, All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

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*

Numbers 6:24-26

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give
you peace.*

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

Mercy has several planned opportunities to celebrate the Easter season. Palm Sunday begins our celebration with Mercy's children leading us in worship, followed by a time of prayer and fasting from 6:30pm Sunday until 6:30pm Monday at our BreakFast Service at 6:30pm. The 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! Look for finalized details for these events in the weeks to come!

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 24th.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at alternating homes. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 24th at the Morgan's Home (7051 Teakwood Dr.). RSVP for the Girls Only Craft Cafe on Saturday, March 23rd 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

Registration is now open for Mercy Men's Retreat which is scheduled for Friday, April 12th (6-9pm) at Clark Morgan's home and Saturday, April 13th (8am-4pm) at Park Cities Presbyterian Church. Registration information is available in the Weekly Email. 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.

10am - 11:30pm
Easter Egg Hunt | Huffhines Park

CALENDAR

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

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 | PCPC

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, 2024 Expenses	\$345,373
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024 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