



MERCY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Palm  
Sunday**  
Galatians 5:16-26 | March 24, 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](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

Palm Sunday | March 24, 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*

*based on Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:26, 28-29*

Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion!  
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!  
Look, your king is coming to you.  
He is righteous and victorious,  
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—  
even on a donkey's colt.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

You are our God, and we will praise You!

**You are our God, and we will exalt You!**

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**His faithful love endures forever!**

**HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

*Hosanna*

*Words and Music by Brooke Fraser Ligertwood | Hillsong Music Publishing ©2006*

I see the King of glory  
Coming on the clouds with fire  
The whole earth shakes  
The whole earth shakes

I see His love and mercy  
Washing over all our sin  
The people sing  
The people sing

Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest

I see a generation  
Rising up to take their place  
With selfless faith  
With selfless faith

I see a near revival  
Stirring as we pray and seek  
We're on our knees  
We're on our knees

Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest

Heal my heart and make it clean  
Open up my eyes to the things unseen  
Show me how to love  
Like You have loved me

Break my heart for what breaks Yours  
Everything I am  
For Your kingdom's cause  
As I walk from earth into eternity

Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest

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Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna in the highest

**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*

**O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you: we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, our faith is often more show than substance, our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is**

**sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises and to receive us as your own.**

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

*based on Psalm 118: 14, 17*

*Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures for ever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.*

**HYMN OF GRACE** | *We celebrate God's gift of grace*

### ***Christ Our Hope in Life and Death***

*Words and Music by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Matt Papa | Getty Music ©2020*

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
“Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.  
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.  
Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.

#### **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*

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Words by Reginald Heber | Music by John Dykes | Public Domain*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Galatians 5:16-26* | Glenn Lanier

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | *Rev. Doug Tharp* | Gospel Fruit

**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.*

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

*Words by Paul Gerhardt, Bernard of Clairvaux, & Prisca LeCroy | Music by Hans Leo Hassler | Public Domain*

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown;  
How pale Thou art with anguish,  
With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish,  
Which once was bright as morn!

Stand guard you watching cherubim,  
Would you forsake your post;  
And leave the dying Son of Man,  
Who suffers best and most?  
And as a lamb is silent,  
So He speaks not a word;  
Till at His dying moment,  
His vict'ry cry is heard.

My burden in Thy Passion, Lord,  
Thou hast borne for me,  
For it was my transgression  
Which brought this woe on Thee.  
I cast me down before Thee,  
Wrath were my rightful lot;  
Have mercy, I implore Thee;  
Redeemer, spurn me not!

Then from my risen Savior,  
A gentle voice I hear,  
With tender words of favor,  
That cast away my fear.  
"Though thou didst cause my suffering,  
Thou must no longer weep.  
My child, if, thou lovest me,  
Go forth and feed my sheep."

### *How Great Thou Art*

*Written by Carl Gustav Boberg | Transl. by Stuart K. Hine | Swedish Folk Melody | Stuart K. Hine Trust ©2014*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"



**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*

*Philippians 4:7*

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**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. tonight begins our time of prayer and fasting from 6:30pm Sunday until 6:30pm Monday at our BreakFast Service (see schedule on the back page) 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 food signups in the weekly email for BreakFast and the Easter Egg Hunt.

### ***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 weekly volunteers 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 April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Youth Ministry***

Youth Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at alternating homes. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Morgan's Home (7051 Teakwood Dr.) from 6-8pm. RSVP for the Girls Only Craft Cafe on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> (6-9pm) at Clark Morgan's home and Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (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.

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, March 24**

*Palm Sunday*

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

### **Sunday, March 24 | 6:30 - 7:30pm**

The Dawson's Home

13760 Sprucewood Dr

Dallas, TX 75240

### **Sunday, March 24 | 11pm - 12am**

The Bryant's Home

5831 Morningside Ave

Dallas, TX 75206

### **Monday, March 25 | 6:30 - 7:30am**

The Tharp's Home

7636 La Cosa Dr

Dallas, TX 75248

### **Monday, March 25 | 12 - 1pm**

The Foster's Home

634 Scottsdale

Dallas, TX 75080

### **Monday, March 25 | 6:30 - 8:30pm**

BreakFast Service

The Thomason's Home

13349 Meadowside Dr

Dallas, TX 75240

### **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 | PCPC

# Holy Week Schedule



## **Day of Prayer and Fasting**

**Sunday, March 24**

6:30 pm at the Dawson's Home  
13760 Sprucewood Dr  
Dallas, TX 75240

11 pm at the Bryant's Home  
5831 Morningside Ave  
Dallas, TX 75206

**Monday, March 25**

6:30 am at the Tharp's Home  
7636 La Cosa Dr  
Dallas, TX 75248

12 pm at the Foster's Home  
634 Scottsdale  
Dallas, TX 75080

## **Break Fast Service**

**Monday, March 25**

6:30 pm at the Thomason's Home  
13349 Meadowside Dr  
Dallas, TX 75240

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, March 28**

6:30 pm in The Chapel

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, March 30**

10-11:30 am at Huffhines Park

## 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 - 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