



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Worship Matters

APRIL 28, 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

April 28, 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 42:1-6a

As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

**My tears have been my food
day and night,
while they say to me all the day long,
“Where is your God?”**

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.

**Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

We Praise You, O God

Music by Julia B. Cory | Dutch Melody | Public Domain

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before You; we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers and mothers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been;
When perils o'ertake us, You never forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise;
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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 Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

Zephaniah 3:15-17

*The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Words and Music by Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©1995

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no power no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

DEACON'S OFFERING

Since the earliest days of the New Testament church, the deacons have taken a special offering to provide for those in need both inside and outside the church. The Lord uses the generosity of His people to provide care that ministers to the whole person, meeting physical and mental needs while being attentive to the spiritual. Through this, we see God's mercy work through us to bless our church and community. Every 4th Sunday, our deacons will give Mercy an opportunity to give to this special offering.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS | *Membership Vows + Communing Children*

*John Bartel
Micaela Bartel
Bethany Kemp
Amy Mosgrove
Matt Mosgrove*

*Emily Clay
Archer Nokes
Norah Sefton*

Membership Vows

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *We confess what we believe*

Westminster Confession of Faith | Chapter 17.1 & 2 | The Perseverance of the Saints

Those whom God has accepted in his Son and has effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit can never completely or finally fall out of their state of grace. Rather, they shall definitely continue in that state to the end and are eternally saved.

This endurance of the saints does not depend on their own free will but on God's unchangeable decree of election, flowing from his voluntary, unchangeable love. It also depends on the effectiveness of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ, on the indwelling Spirit and indwelling seed of God in the saints, and on the nature of the covenant of grace. All these establish the certainty and infallibility of their preservation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Tim Thomson*

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.

The Power of the Cross

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend | Thankyou Music ©2005

Oh, to see the dawn, of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain, written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" The vict'ry cry.

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

BAPTISM | *Parental & Congregational Vows*

Adelyn Joy Lippincott

Parental Vows

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vows

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

CHILDREN'S CHURCH DISMISSAL | *Children 4 years old through 2nd grade*

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

²⁷for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | *Rev. Doug Tharp* | Prayer

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*

Behold Our God

Words and Music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird & Stephen Altrogge | Sovereign Grace Worship ©2011

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

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

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

Congregational Meeting

We are holding a brief congregational meeting immediately following the service today to discuss the offer on the Hillcrest property.

Elder Election

The election for elders will be held next Sunday, May 5th, directly following the service. Candidate bios can be found on our website, or linked in the weekly email. Pastor Doug and the provisional session are happy to answer any questions you have regarding the process. If you missed the emails, or are not on the list to receive them and would like to be added, contact Jessica (jessica@mercydallas.com).

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 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 28th.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at alternating homes. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 28th at the Morgan's home (7051 Teakwood Dr.) Questions? Email youth@mercydallas.com!

Men's Ministry

Mercy Men are studying Romans 1-7, through the first of May. For more information, contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com).

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 28

9 - 10am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

Immediately following the service

Congregational Meeting Regarding the Hillcrest Property | Sanctuary

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | The Morgan's Home

Tuesday, April 30

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, May 5

10 - 11:30am

Worship Service | Chapel

Immediately following the service

Congregational Meeting for the Election of Elders | Chapel

Tuesday, May 7

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Study | Cindi's Deli

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 - February 29, 2024 Expenses	\$386, 261
July 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024 Giving	\$376, 809
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$9,452)</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