



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Revelation

A Picturebook of Perseverance

AUGUST 18, 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

August 18, 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 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.

**Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

Let us praise the Lord!

**The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words by Robert Robinson | American Folk Tune | Public Domain

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

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*

from The Book of Common Worship

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

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

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

Jesus Cast a Look on Me

Words by John Berridge | Music by Matthew Perryman Jones | ©MPJ Music

Jesus cast a look on me,
Give me sweet simplicity
Make me poor and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know

All that feeds my busy pride,
Cast it evermore aside
Bid my will to Thine submit,
Lay me humbly at Thy feet

Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled
Seeing only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might

Leaning on Thy loving breast,
Where a weary soul can rest
Feeling well the peace of God,
Flowing from His precious blood

In this posture let me live,
And hosannas daily give
In this temper let me die,
And hosannas ever cry!

MERCY MOMENT | *The Huebner Family*

Why do you call Him the only Son of God, seeing that God calls us all His children?

We are children of God not by nature, but only by adoption and by grace, in that God wills to regard us as such. But the Lord Jesus who was begotten of the substance of His Father, and is of one essence with Him, is rightly called the only Son of God for there is no other who is God's Son by nature.

You mean to say, then, that this honour is proper to Him alone, and belongs to Him by nature, but is communicated to us through a gracious gift, in that we are His numbers.

That is so. Hence in regard to this communication He is called elsewhere "the First-born among many brethren".

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Tim Thomason*

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.

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Words by John Newton | Music by Wendell Kimbrough | Red Mountain Music ©2005

Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,
Hear what Christ the Savior says'
Every word should joy impart,
Change thy mourning into praise.
Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee,
May He help thee to believe;
Then thou presently will see
Thou has little cause to grieve.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed;
All thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I the High and Holy One,
Israel's God, by all adored,
As thy Savior will be known,
Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew,
And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew;
Thou shall soon rejoice again;
Though I seem to hide my face,
Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space,
Ending in eternal peace.

Though afflicted, tempest tossed,
Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou can be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart;
All thy wastes I will repair;
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
And in thee it shall appear
What the God of love can do.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO PARENTS

SCRIPTURE READING | *Revelation 2:8-11* | Paul Johnson

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Revelation: Letter to the Fearful Church*

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.

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.

SENDING SONG | *We are sent as God's people into the world as we trust His promises*

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Words by George Matheson | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

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*

Hebrews 13:20-2

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

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

Building Update

Inspections showed the building presenting well for its age, apart from needing two HVAC units and some minor repairs. **Mortgage** approval is expected by mid-August, at which point pledges will be funded. Due diligence period ends September 9th, with closing expected around October 9th. **Fundraising** has one-time gifts at \$1.324M, with \$176k needed for the goal of \$1.5M. Monthly gifts are at \$7,300, with \$3,800 needed for the goal of \$11,000. Join us in praising the Lord for his provision and praying for continued blessing as we process the administrative details and for full funding of our capital campaign.

Fall Ministry Kickoff

While we are waiting to have our annual Fall Kickoff Party as a churchwarming at our new building, we are excited to launch our men's, women's, youth, & children's ministries, along with community groups on Sunday, September 8th! Read for details below!

Children's Ministry

School has started, but our summer schedule remains until September 8th, with our last Summer Children's Church on August 25th! For the Fall, Children's Church and Toddler Sunday School will resume meeting weekly on September 8th. Elementary Sunday School will meet weekly beginning September 22nd. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, contact Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)!

Youth Ministry

This fall, Youth Group begins on Sunday, September 15th with a parent meeting after church and Youth Group that evening. We are excited to share that Nate and Cecile Foster will lead our youth this year. Questions? Email youth@mercydallas.com!

Women's Ministry

Join us for Women's Bible Study this fall as we study *Romans 8-16 For You*, by Tim Keller. To get things started, there will be a social gathering on September 4th from 7:30-8:30pm at the Dawson's home. Regular meetings are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:45pm, beginning September 18th, also at the Dawson's. Look for the link in the Weekly Email where you can sign up. Questions? Contact Joanna (women@mercydallas.com).

Men's Ministry

Join us for Men's Bible Study this fall as we study *Romans 8-16 For You*, by Tim Keller. We meet Tuesday mornings from 6:30-7:30am at Cindi's in Dallas. Look for the link in the Weekly Email where you can sign up. Questions? Contact Doug (doug@mercydallas.com).

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 11

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | The Boardroom

During Church

Children's Church | Room 207

Tuesday, August 13

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Summer Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, August 14

6 - 7:30pm

Youth Group Girls | The Morgan's Home

Youth Group Guys | The Foster's Home

Sunday, August 18

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | The Boardroom

Sunday, August 25

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | The Boardroom

During Church

Children's Church | Room 207

Tuesday, August 27

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Summer Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, September 1

NO Communicant Class

Wednesday, September 4

7:30-8:30am

Women's Study Kickoff | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, September 8

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | Learning Center

Tuesday, September 10

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, September 15

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | The Boardroom

Immediately following church

Youth & Parent meeting | TBD

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, September 17

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, September 18

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, September 22

9 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School Begins | Room 207

Tuesday, September 24

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, September 25

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, September 29

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, October 1

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, October 2

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, October 8

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, October 9

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, October 13

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, October 15

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, October 16

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, October 22

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, October 23

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, October 27

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | TBD

Tuesday, October 29

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, October 30

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, November 5

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, November 6

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, November 12

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, November 13

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Wednesday, November 20

7:30 - 8:45pm

Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Tuesday, November 26

No Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 27

No Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 - 7:30am

Men's Bible 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 - June 30, 2024 Expenses

\$575,396

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Giving

\$564,081

Variance

(\$11,315)

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Doug Tharp | doug@mercydallas.com

Church Administrator

Alison Thomas | church@mercydallas.com

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Emily Freeman | emily@mercydallas.com

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Dawson | women@mercydallas.com

Director of Music

Sal Bautista | music@mercydallas.com

Youth Group Leaders | youth@mercydallas.com

Nate and Cecile Foster

Sevee Alaniz

Lilly Edwards

SESSION | church@mercydallas.com

Rev. Doug Tharp

Eric Clay

Jeff Dawson

Clark Morgan

Tim Thomason

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Adam Huebner

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter