



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Revelation

A Picturebook of Perseverance

SEPTEMBER 1, 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

September 1, 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*

*1 Chronicles 16:8-14a*

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

**Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,**

O offspring of Israel his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

**He is the Lord our God!**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

*Words by Saint Francis Assisi | German Tune | Public Domain*

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rushing morn in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening find a voice,  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye men of tender heart  
Forgiving others take your part  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness.  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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 Psalter Hymnal, 1987*

**Most holy and merciful Father,  
We confess to you and to one another,  
that we have sinned against you  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our  
whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not always had in us the mind of Christ.  
You alone know how often we have grieved you  
by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways.  
Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father;  
And free us from our sin.  
Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.**

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

*John 14:1-4*

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."*

*Jesus Paid It All*

*Words by Elvina M. Hall | Music by John T. Grape | worshiptogether.com ©2006*

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small,  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

Lord now indeed I find  
Thy pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

And when, before the throne,  
I stand in Him complete,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
My lips shall still repeat.  
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

What do you understand by the providence of God?

**The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty— all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**

How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

**We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Rev. Doug Tharp*

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*

*Psalm 73*

*Words by Kevin Twit and Mac Purdy | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©1995*

Surely God is good  
To all the pure in heart  
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped  
I nearly lost my grip  
For I envied, the arrogant  
They are free, from my burdens

Surely I, in vain,  
Have kept my, my heart pure  
And surely they are strong and free from trials  
While I am so confused  
Then I entered Your holy place  
Then I saw their destiny

Surely, they're cast down  
As those on slippery ground  
As dreams fade when we wake, so they become  
Completely swept away  
In my heart I was arrogant  
Like a beast before You

Yet always You are near  
You guide me by Your Word  
And always, my Lord God, You are my strength  
My portion You will be  
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord  
I will sing of Your awesome deeds  
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord  
I will sing of Your awesome deeds



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Revelation 2:18-29* | Dave Boland

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup>“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. <sup>20</sup>But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. <sup>22</sup>Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup>and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup>But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup>Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup>The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup>and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup>And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

*Words by Henry Lyte | Music by Bill Moore | Bill Moore Music ©2001*

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shall be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me;  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
Heaven's eternal days before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

*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*

*Romans 15:13*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

**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** has been approved! We are in the process of collecting pledges for funding. Due diligence period ends September 9th, with closing expected around October 9th. **Fundraising** has one-time gifts at \$1.328M, with \$172k needed for the goal of \$1.5M. Monthly gifts are at \$7,680, with \$3,420 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 8<sup>th</sup>! Read for ministry specific details below!

### ***Children's Ministry***

For the Fall, Children's Church and Toddler Sunday School will resume weekly meetings on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Elementary Sunday School will meet weekly beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, connect with Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)!

### ***Youth Ministry***

This fall, Youth Group begins on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm at the Dawson's home. Regular meetings are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:45pm, beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, 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 | The Morgan's Home

### **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:



<b>2023/2024 Budget</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Expenses	\$575,396
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Giving	\$564,081
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$11,315)</i>

### 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

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter