



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Revelation

A Picturebook of Perseverance

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

September 15, 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 16:28-34

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;**

tremble before him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

O Praise His Name (Anastasis)

Words by Benjamin Hastings | Music by Dean Ussher & Marty Sampson | Hillsong Music Australia ©2015

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

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 Prayers of John Bradford (1510-1555)

Heavenly Father, I should behave as your child, rejoicing, praising, trusting, fearing, serving, loving, and calling upon you. But alas, how heavy-hearted I am! I am unthankful, full of unbelief and doubting of your rich mercy. How little I love, fear, and call upon you! Be merciful to me, forgive me, good Father, for your own sake, and grant me the Holy Spirit to reveal yourself to me, that I may truly know, love, and faithfully hang upon you for all my needs. At your hands I must look for all things.

Father, I am taught to glory in you, for you are wholly my Lord, my God, and my Father. But alas, how far am I from this! I am guilty of such unthankfulness for your calling me into this blessed communion of your dear Son and of yourself! O be merciful to me, good Father, forgive me, and grant me for Christ's sake that I may feel the true joy of your blessed fellowship. I come as your child and desire it unto your glory! Amen.

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

John 3:14-16

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God, Be Merciful to Me

Scottish Psalter | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997

God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord.

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 | *Blake & Lilly Edwards*

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*

What Wondrous Love Is This

Folk Hymn of the American South | Public Domain

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹²The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

The Church's One Foundation

Words by Samuel Stone | Music by Brian Moss | Parson John Publishing ©1996

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation, by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish, her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale
Against a foe or traitor, she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
'Til, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

We Are Not Overcome

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell & Robert Heiskell | Bifrost Arts ©2012

Flesh will fail and bones will break
Thieves will steal the earth will shake
Night will fall light will fade
The Lord will give and take away

Put no trust in the earth
In the sod you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us

Because of His great Love
We are not overcome
Because of His great Love
We are not overcome

Have no fear for your life
Turn your cheek turn your cheek
Bear the yoke love and death
The Lord will give all life and breath

Because of His great Love
We are not overcome
Because of His great Love
We are not overcome

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*

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Update

Due diligence is complete and closing is set for October 9, 2024. The trustees have negotiated a \$100,000 reduction in the purchase price to cover fixes to the Sanctuary HVAC, AV, and other miscellaneous maintenance items. **Fundraising** has one-time gifts at \$1.428M, with \$72k needed for the goal of \$1.5M. Monthly gifts are at \$7,790, with \$3,210 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. Fulfill your pledge or make a gift at <https://mercydallas.churchcenter.com/giving/>. Be sure to choose the appropriate giving type, "Building: One Time" or "Building: Monthly".

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 this week! 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 8th. Elementary Sunday School will meet weekly beginning September 22nd.

If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, connect with Emily Freeman (emily@mercydallas.com)!

Youth Ministry

Youth Group at Mercy is for 6th - 12th grades. Come find out more about this ministry on Sunday, September 15th with a parent meeting after church in the sanctuary. Youth Group will also meet that evening at the Morgan's home (7051 Teakwood Dr., Dallas) from 6-8pm. The youth ministry is also looking for host homes for future meetings! If you have questions or are interested in sharing your home, 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. Regular meetings are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:45pm, beginning September 18th at the Dawson's home (13760 Sprucewood Dr., Dallas). 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 15

9 - 9:50am

Communicant Class | The Boardroom

Immediately following church

Youth & Parent meeting | Sanctuary

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

Sunday, November 10

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | New Building

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

Sunday, November 24

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | New Building

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

Sunday, December 8

6 - 8pm

Carols & Cookies | TBD

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:



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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2024/2025 Operating Budget | \$590,000 |
| July 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024 Expenses | \$92,525 |
| July 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024 Giving | \$46,964 |
| <i>Variance</i> | <i>(\$45,562)</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