



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Revelation

A Picturebook of Perseverance

SEPTEMBER 22, 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 22, 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 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

A Mighty Fortress is our God

Words and Music by Martin Luther | Public Domain

A mighty fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient Foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be: Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear for God hath willed, His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him!
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'r, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever!

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 John Calvin, Prayers of the Reformers

Almighty God, since thou delayst with so much forbearance the punishments which we have deserved and daily draw on ourselves, grant that we may not indulge ourselves but carefully consider how often and in how many different ways we have provoked thy wrath against us. May we learn humbly to present ourselves to thee for pardon, and with true repentance implore thy mercy. With all our heart we desire to submit ourselves to thee, whether thou chastisest us, or according to thine infinite goodness, forgive us. Let our condition be ever blessed, not by flattering ourselves in our apathy, but by finding thee to be our kind and bountiful Father, reconciled to us in thine only-begotten Son. Amen.

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

Zephaniah 3:14-17

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!*

*Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*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.*

Rock of Ages

Words by Augustus Toplady | Music by James Ward | James Ward Music ©1985

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

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 | *Eric Clay*

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.

Is He Worthy

Words and Music by Andrew Peterson & Ben Shive | Capitol ©2018

Do you feel the world is broken
We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen
We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through
We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new
We do

Is all creation groaning (it is)
It is
Is a new creation coming (it is)
It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst (it is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this (it is)

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this
He is

Does the Father truly love us (He does)
He does
Does the Spirit move among us (He does)
He does
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves

He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us (He does)
Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Is He worthy of this
He is

Is He worthy, is He worthy
He is
He is

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²He 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 Lukewarm 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.

To Christ the Lord

Words by Laura Taylor, Samuel Stennett | Music by Laura Taylor | Laura Taylor Music ©2001

To Christ the Lord let every tongue
Its noblest tribute bring
When He's the subject of the song
Who can refuse to sing?
Survey the beauties of His face
And on His glories dwell
Think of the wonder of His grace
And all His triumphs tell

He saw me plunged in deep distress
He fled to my relief
For me He bore the shameful cross
And carried all my grief
His hand a thousand blessings pours
Upon my guilty head
His presence gilds my darkest hours
And guards my sleeping bed

To Him I owe my life and breath
And all the joys I have
He makes me triumph over death
And saves me from the grave
To Heaven the place of His abode
He brings my weary feet
Shows me the glories of my God
And makes my joy complete

Since from His bounty I receive
Such proofs of love divine
Had I a thousand hearts to give
Lord, they should all be Thine
A thousand men could not compose
A worthy song to bring
Yet Your love is a melody
Our hearts can't help but sing!

All Glory Be to Christ

Traditional Scottish Folk Tune | Dustin Kensrue | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2012

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To You who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist it vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

His will be done His Kingdom come
On Earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living waters satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

When on the day the Great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast Light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

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*

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".

Children's Ministry

Children's Church and Toddler Sunday School meet every week. Elementary Sunday School will resume weekly beginning today. 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. Youth Group will meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays from 6-8pm. Check the calendar for locations. 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 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 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 | The Freeman's Home

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 | The Foster's Home

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 | The Thomason's Home

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

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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:



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