



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Revelation

A Picturebook of Perseverance

SEPTEMBER 29, 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 29, 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*

from Revelation 4:11, 5:12-13, 7:12

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

**... “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”**

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth
and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
... saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”**

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;

CONFESSION OF SIN | *We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace*

from Revelation 2&3 by Pastor Doug

Our gracious and heavenly Father, we come to you with hearts burdened by the sins warned against in Revelation two and three. We confess their sins as our own, recognizing the struggles of believers through the ages as we seek the kingdom of self in place of the kingdom of God. We confess, like Ephesus, the temptation to lose our first love, looking for fulfillment in anything apart from the grace and mercy of Christ. We confess, like Smyrna, that our fears can too easily lead us down paths of hedging our hope in the comforts and security of this life. We confess, like Pergamum, the ways we compromise on both truth and love, making excuses to wield one over the other for our benefit.

We confess, like Thyatira, that we do not flee all temptation as we should, finding satisfaction or fulfillment in the wrong things rather than clinging to Christ. We confess, like Sardis, the ways we are complacent, looking more dead in our faithful pursuit of you than living with a zeal for the gospel. We confess, with Philadelphia, that we lack the power to change the hearts of others but trust that you keep your word as we hold fast to you. And we confess, like Laodicea, that we can too often live lukewarm lives, rather than unashamedly letting your gospel shape our interactions with all who are around us.

Forgive us, we pray, and allow us by the ever-present work of our Triune God to eat of the tree of life, remember that death is not the end, trust our names are written in the book of life, believe we are children of God as numerous as the stars in the sky, live as those clothed in white garments of righteousness, hold fast as pillars built in the house of the Lord, and look forward to being present before the throne of God, forever. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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

Revelation 1:5-6

and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

Jesus Lover of My Soul

Charles Wesley | Public Domain

Jesus Lover of my soul
Let me to Thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll
While the tempest still is high
Hide me O my Saviour hide
Till the storm of life is past
Safe into the haven guide
Oh receive my soul at last

Other refuge have I none
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee
Leave ah leave me not alone
Still support and comfort me
All my trust on Thee is stayed
All my help from Thee I bring
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of Thy wing

Thou O Christ art all I want
More than all in Thee I find
Raise the fallen cheer the faint
Heal the sick and lead the blind
Just and holy is Thy name
I am all unrighteousness
False and full of sin I am
Thou art full of truth and grace

Plenteous grace with Thee is found
Grace to cover all my sin
Let the healing streams abound
Make and keep me pure within
Thou of life the Fountain art
Freely let me take of Thee
Spring Thou up within my heart
Rise to all eternity

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *Heidelberg Catechism* | Q&A 27 + 28

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 | *Travis & Shannon Watson*

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.

Revelation Song

Words and Music by Jennie Lee Riddle | Gateway Create Publishing ©2004

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marv'lous mystery

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ²At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Worthy*

SERMON NOTES

OFFERTORY | *Joyfully giving His tithes and our offerings in response to His grace*

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | *The family meal of Christians*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND THANKSGIVING

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. While we are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under your table, we nonetheless come, gracious Lord, because we have been bought with a price. So we give thanks for our savior and shepherd Jesus Christ, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hallelujah! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Hallelujah!

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who have believed the good news, have repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.

Please consider offering your tithes as a physical act of worship by placing your offering in the tithe box located at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Awakening

Lord Jesus, I have heard from the Bible for years, and have been in church for years, but very little of this seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the badness of the bad news. Enthrall me with the goodness of the good news. Make what is familiar seem new. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling Against Sin

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN | *We celebrate the family meal of Christians*

O Love Incomprehensible

Words by Anne Steele, Augustus Montague Toplady | Music by Kevin Twit | Kevin Twit Music ©2001

O Love incomprehensible
That made Thee bleed for me
The Judge of all has suffered death
To set His prisoner free.

What pain what soul-oppressing pain
The Great Redeemer bore
While bloody sweat like drops of rain
Distilled from every pore!

O Love incomprehensible
That made Thee bleed for me
The Judge of all has suffered death
To set His prisoner free.

The spotless Savior lived for me,
And died upon the mount
The obedience of His life and death,
Is placed to my account!

O Love incomprehensible
That made Thee bleed for me
The Judge of all has suffered death
To set His prisoner free.

Tis finished! Now aloud He cries,
No more the Law requires
And now, amazing sacrifice,
The Lord of Life expires!

O Love incomprehensible
That made Thee bleed for me
The Judge of all has suffered death
To set His prisoner free.

On Thee alone my hope relies,
Beneath Thy cross I fall
My Lord, my Life, my Sacrifice,
My Savior and my All!

O Love incomprehensible
That made Thee bleed for me
The Judge of all has suffered death
To set His prisoner free.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Words by Reginald Heber | Music by John Dykes | Public Domain

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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*

Revelation 22:16-17, 20-21

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! soon." The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intro to Mercy

Church membership is one of the ways people connect more deeply at Mercy as we are called to grow together, living out the gospel and the one another commands of scripture. Our Intro to Mercy class is a great way to learn more about the church, including our vision and what we believe. Taking the class is required for those seeking to join the church but does not compel anyone to join. It is a great place to meet others who are new as well as Pastor Doug. If you are interested in taking the class, send Alison an email at church@mercydallas.com to join. The next class is scheduled for Sunday, October 13th from 1-5pm.

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

Nursery, Toddler Sunday School (during church), Children's Church (during the sermon) and Elementary Sunday School (before church) meet every week. Volunteers in this ministry are always needed. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, contact 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. Youth Girls have an upcoming social on October 19th at the Dallas Arboretum at 10am. Details will be emailed soon! If you have questions or are interested in sharing your home, email youth@mercydallas.com!

CALENDAR

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

1 -5pm

Intro to Mercy | TBD

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

Saturday, October 19

10am

Youth Girl's Social | The Dallas Arboretum

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

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

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Day

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	\$132,905
July 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024 Giving	\$90,798
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$42,107)</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