



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Lamentations

Gifted Grief

OCTOBER 13, 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

October 13, 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 22:22-28

I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

**You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

**From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.**

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Words by Joachim Neander | Traditional German Melody | Public Domain

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation!
O, my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord! Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth!
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen, how all your longings have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen, sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him

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

based on Psalm 6

O LORD, rebuke us not in your anger, nor discipline us in your wrath. Be gracious, O LORD, for we are languishing; heal us, for our bodies are weak. Our souls are greatly troubled. Turn, O LORD, and deliver us! Forgive the sins of our hearts! Save us for the sake of your steadfast love. Make us into people of praise. We are weary. We are those who know sorrow and weeping. Thank you for hearing our pleas for mercy. Thank you for accepting our prayers. We rejoice that you have set your love upon us in Christ Jesus! Your Spirit sustains us in steadfast grace. Renew our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies to sing your praises! Amen.

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

Hosea 11:8-9

*How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my burning anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.*

Psalm 126

Words and Music by Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Orlando Palmer & Liz Vice | Bifrost Arts Music ©2012

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry

All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy
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HYMN OF PREPARATION | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

Psalm 130

Words by Martin Luther | Music by Christopher Miner | Christopher Miner Music ©1997

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,

O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,

And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;

I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free

From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *Westminster Confession of Faith (Modern English)* | Chapter 8:5 & 8.8

What is the work of Christ's mediation?

By his perfect obedience and sacrifice, offered up to God once and for all through the eternal Spirit, the Lord Jesus has completely satisfied the justice of his Father and purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for everyone whom the Father has given to him.

Christ insures with absolute certainty that everyone for whom he purchased redemption actually accepts and receives it. He makes intercession for them, reveals the mysteries of salvation to them in and by the word, and effectively persuades them to believe and obey by his Spirit. He governs their hearts by his word and Spirit and overcomes all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom in such ways as are most in agreement with his wonderful and unknowable administration of things.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Dave Boland*

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *2 Samuel 1:17-27* | Cecile Foster

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, ¹⁸and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

¹⁹“Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult. ²¹“You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. ²²“From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. ²³“Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. ²⁴“You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. ²⁵“How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! “Jonathan lies slain on your high places. ²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women. ²⁷“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Necessity of Lament*

SERMON NOTES

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

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.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore | Drink Your Tea Music ©2015

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood.
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night before the dawn,
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning O how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together bring shalom.

We will feast in the House of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.

Abide With Me

Words by Henry Lyte | Music by Justin Smith | Justin Smith Music ©2007

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

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;

BENEDICTION | *God sends us out into the world with His blessing*

Psalm 23:6

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Update

We are praising the Lord for His faithfulness and provision as the building purchase was finalized on Wednesday, October 9th. Thank you, Mercy, for your generous support. We ask for your continued prayers as we renovate and make improvements. Stay tuned for updates on our timeline for getting into the building.

Town Hall Meeting

Please plan to attend the Fall 2024 Town Hall Meeting next Sunday, October 20th from 6:30-8pm. The elders will provide updates on budget and finances, the shepherding plan, officer sabbatical policy, and a building update as needed. A summary of these updates will be sent out following the meeting. Please RSVP using the link in the Weekly Email and feel free to contact Alison at church@mercydallas.com if you have any questions about attending.

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 from 10am - 1pm. You can find more details on the registration link in the Weekly Email. Contact youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

Mercy Women

Join the Women of Mercy for a Pumpkins & Petals Craft Event on October 27th from 2-4pm at The Dawson's Home! We'll be making Floral Pumpkins with pressed flowers that you will take home with you - a beautiful addition to your fall decor and we'll provide the pumpkins and flowers! Look for the registration link in the Weekly Email and if you want to bring something yummy to share, there is a place in the registration where you can let us know. Questions? Reach out to Joanna Dawson (women@mercydallas.com).

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 13

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

1 - 5pm

Membership Class | Mercy Dallas Conference Room (12727 Hillcrest Rd.)

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 - 1pm

Youth Girl's Social | The Dallas Arboretum

Sunday, October 20

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

6:30 - 8pm

Town Hall Meeting | TBD

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

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
2 - 4pm
Mercy Women | The Dawson's Home
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

Sunday, November 3

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

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

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
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

Sunday, November 17

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli 7:30 - 8:45pm
Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Wednesday, November 20

7:30 - 8:45pm
Women's Bible Study | The Dawson's Home

Sunday, November 24

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
6 - 8pm
Youth Group | Mercy Dallas (12727 Hillcrest Rd.)

Tuesday, November 26

No Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 27

No Women's Bible Study

Sunday, December 1

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 - 7:30am
Men's Bible Study | Cindi's Deli

Sunday, December 8

9:30 - 9:50am
Elementary Sunday School | Room 207
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

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Clark Morgan

Tim Thomason

DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter