



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Lamentations

Gifted Grief

OCTOBER 20, 2024

## **Welcome to Mercy Presbyterian Church**

Thank you for joining us in worship today. If you are visiting with us, we are delighted that you have chosen to be with us and our desire is to be a blessing to you. Our prayer is that God will transform our lives and enable us to live for His glory and the good of the world. We would love to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have. Please share your information with us by emailing us at [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com).

### ***Our Worship***

You will notice that we follow a thoughtful and connected rhythm in our worship, called liturgy. The order of our worship reflects the work of the gospel in our hearts. In worship, we come together to tell the story of the gospel by the structure of our worship, the content of our worship, and the way that we worship.

### ***Parents of Young Children***

We believe the church is for all people, young and old, and want Mercy to be a church where children are seen, heard, and loved. We invite you to involve your children in our service, help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say and sing parts of our worship service every week in order to help our young children to participate. Children's bulletins with coloring activities are available by the door to the sanctuary. Nursery is also available for babies and toddlers. A Mother's Room (the Blumen Room) is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one. The Blumen Room is a private space set with comfortable chairs and a changing station to the north of the sanctuary, and down the hall to the right.

### ***Connection Points***

If you are a visitor, regular attender or member, we would love the chance to connect with you outside of Sunday mornings! Use the QR code below to receive more information about community groups and other ministries, as well as to communicate changes to your personal information.

**Community Groups** are a vital part of Mercy's ministry and worship. **The Weekly Update** is our email newsletter and the primary way we communicate announcements, information about church life, and details about upcoming events. Your **Prayer Requests** matter to us! If there is any way that we can pray for you, we would love the opportunity to join you in lifting your needs before the Lord. Use the QR code below or email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us!





## ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 20, 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 25:1-7*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.**

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

**Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!**

**HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

*Only a Holy God*

*Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren, Dustin Smith | CityAlight Music ©2016*

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God  
Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

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

*from the Valley of Vision*

**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*

*John 1:14, 16-18*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

*Psalm 73*

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

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

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

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

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

***Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)***

*Words by Kathrina von Schlegel | Translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick | Music by Jean Sibelius*

*Additional Words and Music by Kari Jobe & Jason Ingram | Worship Together Music ©2013*

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God to order and provide  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain  
Be still my soul thy best thy heav'nly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past  
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing shake  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last  
Be still my soul the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

In You I rest in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul.

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord  
When disappointment grief and fear are gone  
Sorrow forgot Love's purest joys restored  
Be still my soul when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

In You I rest in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul.

In You I rest in You I found my hope  
In You I trust, You never let me go  
I place my life within Your hands alone  
Be still my soul, Be still my soul. Be still my soul.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS | *Membership Vows*

*The Mobley Family*

*The Thomas Family*

**Membership Vows**

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?  
Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

**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** | *Katherine & Thomas Walter*

**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 DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *Lamentations 1* | David French

How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. <sup>2</sup>She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. <sup>3</sup>Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. <sup>4</sup>The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly. <sup>5</sup>Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the Lord has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. <sup>6</sup>From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has departed. Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer. <sup>7</sup>Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall. <sup>8</sup>Jerusalem

sinned grievously; therefore she became filthy; all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns her face away. <sup>9</sup>Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her future; therefore her fall is terrible; she has no comforter. "O Lord, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!" <sup>10</sup>The enemy has stretched out his hands over all her precious things; for she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary, those whom you forbade to enter your congregation. <sup>11</sup>All her people groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. "Look, O Lord, and see, for I am despised." <sup>12</sup>"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger. <sup>13</sup>"From on high he sent fire; into my bones he made it descend; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all the day long. <sup>14</sup>"My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the Lord gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand. <sup>15</sup>"The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah. <sup>16</sup>"For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed." <sup>17</sup>Zion stretches out her hands, but there is none to comfort her; the Lord has commanded against Jacob that his neighbors should be his foes; Jerusalem has become a filthy thing among them. <sup>18</sup>"The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity. <sup>19</sup>"I called to my lovers, but they deceived me; my priests and elders perished in the city, while they sought food to revive their strength. <sup>20</sup>"Look, O Lord, for I am in distress; my stomach churns; my heart is wrung within me, because I have been very rebellious. In the street the sword bereaves;

in the house it is like death. <sup>21</sup>“They heard my groaning, yet there is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that you have done it. You have brought the day you announced; now let them be as I am. <sup>22</sup>“Let all their evildoing come before you, and deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my transgressions; for my groans are many, and my heart is faint.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Lamentations 1*

**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.*

*Come, Ye Sinners*

*Words by Joseph Hart | Music by Matthew S. Smith | detuned radio music ©2000*

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
Full of pity, joined with power.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry 'til you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires,  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him; venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,  
Can do helpless sinners good.

***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



**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*

*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***

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 tonight, Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm. Be sure to register via the link in the Weekly Email. 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. 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Youth Group will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays from 6-8pm. Check the calendar for locations. The Girls trip to the Dallas Arboretum has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come and enjoy the Pumpkin Village and beautiful weather! Even if you already signed your daughter up, please sign up using the link in the Weekly Email for this new date. Contact youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

### ***Mercy Women***

Join the Women of Mercy for a Pumpkins & Petals Craft Event next Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 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! The registration link is 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 20**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 207

### **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

### **Saturday, November 2**

10am - 1pm

Youth Girls | The Dallas Arboretum

### **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  
6:30 - 8pm  
Town Hall Meeting | TBD

**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

**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*

**Thursday, November 28**

*Thanksgiving Day*

**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:



|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>2024/2025 Operating Budget</b>          | <b>\$590,000</b>  |
| July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Expenses | \$183,717         |
| July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024 Giving   | \$151,450         |
| <i>Variance</i>                            | <i>(\$32,267)</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

Blake and 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