



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 1, 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

December 1, 2024

WELCOME AND INVOCATION | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | *A sign of the coming light of Christ*

*The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.*

ADVENT READING | *The Freeman Family*

based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28

*The prophet Isaiah said,
"The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with
child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

*The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
We rejoice that we too have found favor with God. God's mercy
extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.*

CALL TO WORSHIP | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

from Daniel 4:1-3

Peace be multiplied to you!

**Let us proclaim the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done
for us!**

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders!

**His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from
generation to generation. Great is the Lord!**

HYMN OF ADORATION | *We sing praises to God*

Come and Worship

Words and Music by Jason Ingram & Bebo Norman | Appstreet Music ©2007

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er the Earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Come and worship
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

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

**Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before you and our Lord Jesus Christ
we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return
of our Savior and Judge.
We have been blind to your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In your great goodness
put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

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

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Rowland Prichard | Public Domain

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, day-spring from on high appear
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing news glad tidings of a birth
Go to Him your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness our Redeemer Shepherd Friend
Leaving riches without number born within a cattle stall
This the ever-lasting wonder Christ was born Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Joy to the World!

Words by Isaac Watts | Music by George Frederick Handel | Arranged by Lowell Mason | Public Domain

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

CONFESSION OF FAITH | *Heidelberg Catechism* | Q&A 35 & 36

What is the meaning of these words "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary"?

That God's eternal Son, who is, and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that he might also be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.

What profit dost thou receive by Christ's holy conception and nativity?

That he is our Mediator; and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | *Nate & Cecile Foster*

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

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my

God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. ¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Ruth 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.

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

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

O Come All You Unfaithful

Music and words by Lisa Clow & Bob Kauflin | Sovereign Grace ©2020

O come all you unfaithful
Come weak and unstable
Come know you are not alone
O come barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

O come bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come taste of His perfect love
O come guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing
Come He is the offering
Come see what your God has done
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Words by James Montgomery | Music by Henry Smart | Public Domain

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal three in one.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

ADVENT DOXOLOGY | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
We'll praise Your name forever, we'll praise your name forever.
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

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

Romans 15:12-13

And again Isaiah says,

*“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Team

We need your help! We are working on a schedule. If you are interested in participating in the Welcome Team, please reach out to John or Jill MacLaughlin at 254-289-3609 or 254-541-5353. We appreciate your participation!

Officer Nominations

Nominations for Officers are open now through December 12th. Mercy members are welcome to nominate men (who are members of Mercy) who they believe are qualified to be elders or deacons. Please read through the "**Officer Nomination Guidelines**" and prayerfully consider your nomination which can be made using the form on our website or through the Weekly Email. For more information, see the town hall handout, Weekly Email, or reach out to Pastor Doug or one of the elders.

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 and generally meets on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Youth Room from 6 - 8pm. Contact youth@mercydallas.com with any questions!

Cookies + Carols

Save the date for our Cookies + Carols service on Sunday, December 8th from 4 - 6pm. Watch for details in the Weekly Email!

Christmas Eve Service

Make plans to join your Mercy family for a service on Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 24th from 5 - 6pm.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

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 101

4 - 6pm

Cookies & Carols | Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 22

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Tuesday, December 24

5 - 6pm

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 12

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Sunday, January 26

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Friday, January 31

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

Saturday, February 1

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

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, 12727 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75230
- 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	\$643,000
July 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024 Expenses	\$226,656
July 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024 Giving	\$210,397
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$16,259)</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