



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 22, 2024

Welcome to Mercy Presbyterian Church

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

Our Worship

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

Parents of Young Children

We believe the church is for all people, young and old, and want Mercy to be a church where children are seen, heard, and loved. We invite you to involve your children in our service, help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say and sing parts of our worship service every week in order to help our young children to participate. Children's bulletins with coloring activities are available by the door to the sanctuary. Nursery is also available for babies and toddlers. A Mother's Room (Room 109) is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one.

Connection Points

If you are a visitor, regular attender or member, we would love the chance to connect with you outside of Sunday mornings! Email church@mercydallas.com to connect with us and 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. Email church@mercydallas.com to connect with us!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 22, 2024

WELCOME

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.
Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

ADVENT READING | *The Sefton Family*

based on Luke 2:10, 17-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:8

*The shepherds were the first to hear
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—
the good news of great joy for all the people.*

*Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds
spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
and all who heard it were amazed.
We have also heard this wonderful news.
We welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.
Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.
And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.*

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

based on Psalm 85:7-13

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.
Listen to what the Lord our God says:

**He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

**May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us
in this time of Advent worship.
May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.**

Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend | Thankyou Music ©2004

Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for ev'ry nation
Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place
Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast
Vulnerable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb
Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story
Gold a King is born today
Incense God is with us
Myrrh His death will make a way
By His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam Son of heaven
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ our mighty Champion
What a Savior what a Friend
What a glorious mystery
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of history

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*

Isaiah 9:6-7

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.*

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

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

HYMN OF GRACE | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin Text | Translated by J.M. Neal | 15th c. French Franciscan Processional | Public Domain

O come, o come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come thou rod of Jesse free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come thou dayspring come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come desire of nations bind,
All people in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to thee O Israel.

DEACON'S OFFERING

Since the earliest days of the New Testament church, the deacons have taken a special offering to provide for those in need both inside and outside of the church. The Lord uses the generosity of His people to provide care that ministers to the whole person, meeting physical and mental needs while being attentive to the spiritual. Through this, we see God's mercy work through us to bless our church and community. Every fourth Sunday, our deacons provide Mercy an opportunity to give to this special offering.

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 | *Blake & Lilly Edwards*

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

During the children's sermon, pass the clipboards to check in and let us know you were here today!

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING | *Ruth 4:1-13* | The Allen Family

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

²Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said.

⁵Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

⁶At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

⁷(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

⁸So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

⁹Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

¹¹Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹²Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Rev. Doug Tharp | *Ruth 4:1-13*

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*

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash | Rising Springs Music ©2009

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long, we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God incarnate, here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel

The son of God, here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God incarnate, here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Praise His name Emmanuel
Oh, praise His name Emmanuel
Oh, praise His name Emmanuel

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Felix Mendelssohn | Public Domain

Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heav'n adored;
Christ the ever lasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail! The heav'n born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth!
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to 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*

from The Worship Sourcebook

*God the Father, who loved the world
so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for eternal life.
God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
God the Holy Spirit, by whose working
the virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness. Amen.*

DISMISSAL | *God sends us out into the world*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service

Make plans to join your Mercy family on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th for a candlelight service celebrating the birth of Christ! Note that the time has been changed to 4 - 5pm. We look forward to worshipping with you!

2025 Vision Dinner

Join us for our Annual Vision Dinner on January 12th from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an evening of food, fellowship, and sharing. We will have dinner by table (more info to come), sing worship songs, play a fun game, and also hear an update from 2024 and vision for 2025. It will be a joyous time of fun and fellowship. This event is for the adults of Mercy and childcare will not be provided.

Welcome Team

We need your help! We are working on the schedule for the coming year and we need you! 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!

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. We will take a break for the Christmas season and resume meeting on the morning of January 12th, from 9am-9:50am instead of their usual evening time.

Women's Ministry

We can't wait for you to join us for the Mercy Women's Retreat on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st. We'll kick off Friday evening at 6pm with dinner and fellowship. On Saturday, we will hear words of encouragement from our very own Andrea Thomason. Look for a registration link in the Weekly Email. We are excited to see you there!

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

Tuesday, December 24

4 - 5pm

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 29

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

Sunday, January 5

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

Sunday, January 12

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

6 - 8pm

Annual Vision Dinner | Mercy Dallas

Sunday, January 19

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

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

Sunday, February 2

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

Sunday, February 9

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

Sunday, February 16

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

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 - November 30, 2024 Expenses	\$284,794
July 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024 Giving	\$264,293
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$20,501)</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

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