



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 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

Christmas Eve | December 22, 2024

WELCOME

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

O Lord of Might, O Bright and Morning Star, O King of Creation, O Immanuel, we rejoice and are glad on this Christmas Eve, for truly you have come, God in the Flesh. Fill our hearts now with your grace and truth. Show us the path of knowledge. Comfort us in our mourning. Save us from our sin. Open wide our way to heaven. Turn our darkness into light. So that every creature in heaven and on earth will join in a chorus of praise, and shout with joy to you, our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE | *The Boland Family*

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. In the wilderness prepare the way of our Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman shall be with child and shall bear a son. And they shall call his name Immanuel, which means "God is with us." Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Prepare then the way of the Lord.

CAROL

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

CAROL

Glory in the Darkest Place

Words and Music by Brittany Born | Sovereign Grace Praise ©2016

Out of the depths of silent night, Immanuel come hear our cry.
Our grief is strong our burdens great. The night is long and hope is faint.
You came to set the captives free, a Morning Star of joy and peace
Why does this darkness feel so deep? Why can't our weary spirits see?

Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place
Glory, glory, glory let your mercy reign.

Out of the depths of silent night, a Savior born, a mother's sigh.
The darkness trembled at the Star, a beam of hope for troubled hearts
You came to make Your blessings known, to bear our curse of death alone.
You came to share our suffering, so in our sorrow we could sing.

Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place
Glory, glory, glory let your mercy reign.
Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place
Glory, glory, glory let your mercy reign.

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.

ADVENT PRAYER | *Rev. Doug Tharp*

FIRST READING | *Genesis 3:15*

"...I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

HOMILY

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillip Brooks | English Folk Tune | Public Domain

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shine
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

SPECIAL MUSIC | *Coventry Carol*

SECOND READING | *Ruth 4:14-22*

Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²²Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

HOMILY

CAROL

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Traditional English Carol | 18th c. | Public Domain

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior,
The true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And in true love and fellowship
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
Is filled with heav'nly grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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.

THIRD READING | *Matthew 1:1-6; 16-17*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah...

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

HOMILY

CAROLS & CANDLE LIGHTING

O Holy Night

Words by Placide Cappeau | Music by Adolphe Adam | Public Domain

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Silent Night

Words by Joseph Mohr | Music by Franz Xaver Gruber | Public Domain

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

"Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure Light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

O Lord, give us peace.

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope.

O Lord, give us hope.

Jesus is the King of kings and lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

O Lord, give us joy.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we bless you now and forever.

Amen. Merry Christmas!

Tonight's special music provided by:

Sal Bautista - Viola

Sara Sasaki - Violin

John Black - Violin

Nicole Tharp - Piano

Ya-Chen Jessy Lee - Cello