



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**The King
& His
Kingdom**

**Holy Communion
Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost
November 12, 2023**

Welcome!

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
To all who mourn and long for comfort;
To all who struggle and desire victory;
To all who sin and need a Savior;
To all who are strangers and want fellowship;
And to whoever will come –

*This church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

God Calls Us To Worship

Call to Worship - Psalm 148:1-6

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!

Unison: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!

Leader: Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!

Unison: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created.

Unison: And He established them forever and ever; He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Trinity Hymnal #115

All Creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "Behold, I Am Sending You Out"

Theme Verse - Matthew 10:16

Jesus said, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

Hymn - "Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord,
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin,
In each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession - Adapted from Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen.

Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.

Assurance of Pardon - 1 John 1:8-9

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Hymn - "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You!
All on earth Your scepter claim;
All in heaven above adore You!
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign;
Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

Lo! The apostolic train
Join the sacred name to hallow.
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;

And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on;
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name You;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim You;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery;
While we own the mystery.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer for Our Veterans

God of the nations, we remember before You with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. We thank you for E.J., Barney, Brad, Steve, K.G., Colton, Roger, Chip, Norm, and James, and all other veterans among us. Bless them, we pray, and grant that we may follow their example of selfless service. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Profess Our Faith And Pray

Affirmation of Faith - Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father. By Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father

and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Greeting

Hymn - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

Trinity Hymnal #296

All Hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of All.
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of All.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of All.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of All.

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 10:16-25

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"Behold, I Am Sending You Out"

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

We Commune At God's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Unison: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Unison: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Unison: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory to You, O Lord, most high.

Words of Institution

Holy Communion

Please come forward as directed, and wait to consume the elements until all have been served. Please place used cups in the receptacles as you leave.

Prayer after Holy Communion

We Respond To God's Grace

Closing Hymn - "Behold the Lamb"

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,

Slain for us: and we remember:

The promise made that all who come in faith

Find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
Around the table of the King.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Closing Blessing - 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

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Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 10:16-25

16 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for My sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of His household."

Sermon Notes

Matthew 10:16-25

Pastor Bill Lovell

"Behold, I Am Sending You Out"

Introduction

- 1. I Am Sending You Out**
- 2. So Be Wise as Serpents**
- 3. As Innocent as Doves**

Church Life Notes

Today - November 12, 2023

1. **Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost:** Pentecost is a season focused on discipleship. Please stay with us for the rest of November as we study Matthew 10.
2. **Holy Communion:** We will share the Lord's Supper this morning.
3. **Happy Veterans Day Weekend!** We at MPC thank God for all our veterans, including E.J. Abood, Barney Briscoe, Brad Buswell, Steve Collinsworth, K.G. Glaspell, Colton Huckaby, Roger Peraldo, Chip Sayers, Norm Winn, and James Woods.
4. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is John Fowler. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove.
5. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
6. **Marriage Workshop:** Please join us following worship today for a discussion on strategies to deepen spiritual intimacy in marriage. For information on our email list that discusses preferences about topics, and organizational details like food and childcare, please contact Diane Kizziar (dianekizziar@gmail.com).
7. **MPC Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. We'll see you next week!

Upcoming Activities & Events

8. **MPC Sunday School for All Ages:** Please join us Sunday mornings between 9:00-10:00am.
 - **Children** - Pre-K-Grade 5 - Solid Bible teaching from the Children's Catechism, age appropriate and fun.
 - **Youth** - Grades 6-12 - Mature reflection on the Bible and the Westminster Shorter Catechism.
 - **Adult** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*.
9. **Men's Book Group:** Our book group on Jonathan Pennington's *Come and See* concludes this Tuesday evening at 7pm. Stay tuned for more details on our next book! For more information, contact Paul Hartgrove (paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).
10. **Christian Community Action:** Please join us on Wednesday, November 15, from 5:30-8:00pm at CCA's food pantry, as we help with shopping, bagging, loading cars, and working the registers. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove at 972-816-2205 or via email at paul.hartgrove@gmail.com. We need about 8-10 volunteers. CCA is located at 200 South Mill Street in Lewisville.
11. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.

12. **Christmas at MPC:** Please make note of upcoming festivities.
 - **Christmas Pageant & Party** - Sunday, December 10, 4:30pm
 - **Christmas Eve** - Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm
 - **Christmas Day** - Monday, December 25 - No Service
13. **Save The Date:** Our pianist, Caleb Esmond, will be hosting a Christmas recital at the church on the evening of Saturday, December 2. Stay tuned for more details!

News & Needs

14. **MPC Officer Training Recommendations:** All communing members of Metrocrest may recommend qualified candidates for church office (Elder or Deacon). Forms, which are available in the Lobby, must be submitted by November 30.
15. **CCA Giving Tree:** We have an opportunity to serve with Christian Community Action by purchasing a gift from one of the tags on the CCA Giving Tree in the lobby. This program provides Christmas presents for needy children. Gifts should be returned to the church unwrapped with the CCA tag attached by Sunday, November 26.

High Fives & Thanks

16. **North Texas Presbytery:** Thanks to participants at last week's Presbytery meeting, including Hayden Bernays, June Bernays, Paul Hartgrove, Colton Huckaby, Bill Lovell, and Larry Perry.

Prayer Requests

17. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on innocent civilians in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
18. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach them with the gospel.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's continued provision.
19. **For One Another:**
 - **Veterans** - For God's gift of peace and healing.
 - **Marriages** - For God's mercy on all married couples.
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Larry Bounds (Paul Hartgrove's friend), Steve Collinsworth, Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ashley Marble, Luke Myers, Kristen Novak (Steve and Liz Wallin's daughter), Ellen Perry, Larry Perry, Ron Revell, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Scarlett, newborn daughter of Teddy and Melissa Brewer; and Madeleine Esmond, expectant mommy due in January.

Welcome to Metrocrest! Please click [here](#) to fill out our welcome card. We would love to know that you worshipped with us today and share more about our church.



How can we pray for you? MPC is a praying church! You can share your prayer requests with us by (1) using one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code to access a digital card. Please indicate whether your request is private or public. You may also request to pray with an Elder.

Do you want to make a donation? To fund MPC's mission and ministry, we depend on God's provision through you. If you'd like to make a donation this morning, you can do so by (1) placing it in the collection basket during the Offertory; or (2) pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code to access our secure online giving portal.



Thank you for your financial support! At MPC, we aim for financial transparency. Here's where we stand several months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$7,286; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$123,750; and our projected giving to-date - \$149,808. We know these are difficult times for everyone. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and *please pray for God's faithful provision.*



Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us through the church office at info@metrocrestchurch.org!

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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover