



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



St. Paul - Jean Morin

Morning Worship
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
January 28, 2024

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 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Unison: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

Leader: Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Unison: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

Leader: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "Now Thank We All Our God"

Trinity Hymnal #98

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

*Dios Creador a ti
Con gozo adoramos.
O, Cristo Redentor,
Tu salvación cantamos.
Espíritu de amor,
Acepta la oración
Que eleva con fervor
El grato corazón.*

*Creator God to You
With joy we give worship.
Christ the Redeemer,
We sing Your salvation.
Spirit of love,
Accept the prayer
That lifts with fervor
The grateful heart.*

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Apostle's Prayer"

Theme Verse - Philippians 1:3-4

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Hymn - "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us;
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we confess to You our manifold sins. Because You are holy and cannot look at wrong, we ask for forgiveness, not on the basis of anything we have done, but on the basis of Your Son's perfect obedience. In love, He has called us to Himself and washed us in His

Own sinless blood. Have mercy on us, Father, and renew us, we pray, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ and filled with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.

Assurance of Pardon - Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Amen.

Hymn - "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

Trinity Hymnal #254

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

We Profess Our Faith And Pray

Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by

the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Greeting

Please greet those around you in Christ's name.

Hymn - "For the Cause"

For the cause of Christ the King
We give our lives, an offering
'Til all the earth resounds
With ceaseless praise to the Son.

For the cause of Christ we go
With joy to reap, with faith to sow
As many see and many
Put their trust in the Son.

(Refrain)

Christ we proclaim,
The Name above every name:
For all creation, ev'ry nation,
God's salvation through the Son!

For the King once lifted high
To cries of rage, of 'crucify!'
Endured the cross as every
Sin was laid on the Son.

To the King who conquered death
To free the poor and the oppressed
For lasting peace for life
And liberty in the Son. **(Refrain)**

Let it be my life's refrain:
To live is Christ, to die is gain;
Deny myself, take up my cross
And follow the Son. **(Refrain)**

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

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Philippians 1:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Apostle's Prayer"

We Respond To God's Grace

Offerory Sentence - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Closing Hymn - "We Will Feast in the House of Zion/Doxology"

We will feast in the house of Zion;

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;

He is the Lord, our God.

We are not consumed by the flood;

Upheld, protected, gathered up. **(Refrain)**

In the dark of night, before the dawn,

My soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh, how long?

O, God of Jacob, be my strength. **(Refrain)**

Ev'ry vow we've broken and betrayed,

You are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave,

Bind us together, bring shalom. **(Refrain)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - 2 Corinthians 13:11,14

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full reconciliation, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

"Now Thank We All Our God" Words by Martin Rinkart, 1636. tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858, Music by Johann Cruger, 1647, Spanish tr. by Federico Fliedner.
"Speak, O Lord" Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend – © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. **"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"** Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Hugh Wilson, Arr. by Robert A. Smith. **"For the Cause"** 2016 © Getty Music Publishing and Townend Songs. **"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"** Words and music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore - © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music. All Rights Reserved. CCLI song # 7041364. **"Doxology"** Words by Thomas Ken, Music by Louis Bourgeois. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Philippians 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

New International Version - Philippians 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Sermon Notes

Philippians 1:1-11

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Apostle's Prayer"

1. **Introduction**

2. **Thanking God (vv 3-5)**

3. **Trusting God (vv 6-8)**

4. **Asking God (vv 9-11)**

Church Life Notes

Today - January 28, 2024

1. **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany:** The season of Epiphany gets its name from a Greek word which means *manifestation*, referring specifically to the manifestation of the gospel to the Gentiles. Traditionally Epiphany has an emphasis on cross-cultural mission.
2. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Larry Perry. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove.
3. **Congregational Meeting:** All members are invited to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting this morning, immediately following the 10:15am service. We'll elect Ruling Elders, Deacons, and a Trustee, and reflect briefly on our hopes and plans for 2024. Our goal is to be done well within an hour.
4. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
5. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for middle and high school youth will meet from 6:00-8:00pm at the church. **Cross Training will continue this Sunday.** If any youth are interested in singing or playing an instrument in youth group, please join us at the church at 5:15pm.

Upcoming Activities & Events

6. **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** - Highly interactive study of "The Gospel According to Isaiah"—led by Will Grover.
7. **Women's Ministry:** MPC's Women's Bible Study will be starting on Tuesday, February 13! We will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday nights at the church. The study will also be available via Zoom. Our study will be over 1 and 2 Kings using the guide "What A Royal Mess" by Susan Tyner. Call or email Melodie Bajema to register and receive the study book (214-669-7135 or rbajema5@sbcglobal.net). This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to join us for the 10-week study!
8. **Save the Date!** Our annual Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance, a long-time MPC favorite, is set for Saturday, March 2! Everyone is invited to cook their best chili recipe and bring it to the church to share in a friendly competition. And while the judges do their thing, we will enjoy great old-time Square Dancing with a professional caller. Put it on your family calendar and come along!

News & Needs

9. **Safeguarding Committee:** MPC is committed to being a community that is free of sexual harassment. If you have been harassed, please contact **Diane Kizziar** (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or **Paul Hartgrove** (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
10. **Officer Nominations:** Nominees for Session are Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, and James Woods. Nominees for Board of Deacons are Vianny D'Souza and Brian Ray. The nominee for Board of Trustees is Steve Withers.
11. **Men's Book Group:** Continuing next week, interested men will meet **on Tuesday evenings at the church** to study Jimmy Davis' ***Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life***. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
12. **Prayer Ministry:** Help us keep our prayer requests current by letting us know **via email** when you want to remove or revise your requests on Realm and on the list in the Sunday bulletin.

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Newest MPC Baby:** Congrats and high fives to Madeleine and Caleb Esmond on the safe arrival of newborn Lydia Judith.
14. **Last Week's Preacher:** Huge thanks to Ruling Elder Bill Camp, who preached last Sunday while Pastor Bill was away.

Prayer Requests

15. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
16. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Church Elections** - For God's direction and blessing.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's provision.
17. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, Kathy Carruth (Rick Carruth's mom), Krystal Hays (Bill & Shona Camp's neighbor), Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Max Kizziar, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Marcia Livingston (David Wamsley's sister), Ruth Lerner (Elinor Hites' sister), Ariel Lopez, Ashley Marble, Alana Marion, Jeannie Marion (Mike Marion's stepmom), Mike Marion, Tom Mayfield, Lauren Muckleroy (friend of Scott Marrs), Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Carol Revell, John Revell, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Lydia Judith and new mom Madeleine Esmond.

Welcome to Metrocrest! Please take a few moments to leave your contact information with Pastor Bill or a member of the Welcome Team. We would love to know that you worshipped with us today and share more information about our church.



How can we pray for you? MPC is a praying church! You can share your prayer requests with us by (1) submitting 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 six months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$6,623; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$211,402; and our projected giving to-date - \$236,538. 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!

Bill Lovell
Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director

bill@metrocrestchurch.org
laura@metrocrestchurch.org
nick@metrocrestchurch.org
treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org
joseph@metrocrestchurch.org



The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover