



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship
Third Sunday of Lent
March 3, 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

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship - Psalm 2:10-12

Leader: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Unison: Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Leader: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum;
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more.

(Refrain)

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father so tender is calling us home;
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more. **(Refrain)**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more. **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Nations Will Repent"

Theme Verses - Matthew 12:41

"The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, Something greater than Jonah is here."

Hymn - "The Men of Nineveh Rise Up"

Tune: Tallis' Ordinal

The men of Nineveh rise up,
Repenting of their sin;
As Jonah called them long ago,
One greater calls again.

The son of Amittai, he fled,
As pagan sailors heard,
But Jesus Christ, God's holy Son,
Proclaims God's holy word.

Frail Jonah three days judgment earned,
The whale and wat'ry grave;
Three days the sinless Christ endured,
Frail dying men to save.

To Christ, today, the nations turn,
Their kings in throngs bow down;
For He who suffered, died on earth,
In heaven wears the crown.

Rise up, all peoples, hear the Lord,
Give heed, obey His voice;
In Him, the resurrected Christ,
Repent, believe, rejoice!

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession - Based on Exodus 20:1-17

Leader: Let us recount God's sovereign call to obedience, and pray for His sanctifying mercy.
God spoke these words, and said: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods but Me.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not make to yourself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath day.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: Honor your father and your mother.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall do no murder.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not steal.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not covet.

Unison: Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

Leader: Having recounted God's holy law, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against Your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us, O Lord: spare all those who confess their faults, and restore all those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.

Assurance of Pardon - Romans 8:1-3a

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.

Hymn - "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

Trinity Hymnal #253

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away,
Washed all my sins away.
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Your flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Your pow'r to save,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave,
Lies silent in the grave,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, Your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.
Be saved to sin no more,
Be saved to sin no more,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

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

Hymn - "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea.
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shole;
Chart and compass come from Thee!
Savior, pilot me.

Though the sea be smooth and bright,
Spark'ling with the stars of night,
And my ship's path be ablaze
With the light of halcyon days;
Still I know my need of Thee!
Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild.
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them "Be still!"
Wonderous Sovereign of the sea,
Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me:
"I will pilot thee."

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 - Matthew 12:38-42

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Nations Will Repent"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Offertory Sentence - Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Christ let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess His Name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Closing Hymn - "Christ the True and Better Adam"

Christ, the true and better Adam;
Son of God and Son of man,
Who, when tempted in the garden,
Never yielded, never sinned.
He, who makes the many righteous
Brings us back to life again.
Dying, He reversed the curse;
Then rising, crushed the serpent's head.

Christ, the true and better Isaac;
Humble Son of sacrifice,
Who would climb the fearful mountain,
There to offer up His life.
Laid with faith upon the altar,
Father's joy and only Son;
There salvation was provided,
Oh, what full and boundless love.

(Refrain)

Amen! Amen!
From beginning to end.
Christ, the story; His, the glory.
Alleluia! Amen!

Christ, the true and better Moses;
Called to lead a people home.
Standing bold to earthly powers,
God's great glory to be known.
With his arms stretched wide to heaven,
See the waters part in two.
See the veil is torn forever,
Cleansed with blood, we pass now through. **(Refrain)**

Christ, the true and better David;
Lowly shepherd, mighty King.
He, the champion in the battle,
Where, O death is now thy sting?
In our place, He bled and conquered,
Crown Him Lord of majesty.
His shall be the throne forever,
We shall e'er His people be. **(Refrain)**

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

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Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 12:38-42

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, Something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, Something greater than Solomon is here."

Sermon Notes

Matthew 12:38-42

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Nations Will Repent"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

"As Jonah represented the prophetic office, Solomon, the son of David, represents not only Israel's wisdom tradition ... but also its monarchy." W.D. Davies, Dale C. Allison, *Critical Commentary on Matthew*

Church Life Notes

Today - March 3, 2024

1. **Third Sunday of Lent:** Today is the third Sunday of Lent, a season to reflect on sin and mortality. As part of our seasonal observance, you are encouraged to take a copy of this year's Lenten Advisory. Looking ahead, Maundy Thursday is March 28, Good Friday is March 29, and Easter Sunday is March 31.
2. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Larry Perry. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove.
3. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
4. **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

5. **Easter Choir:** Interested in auditioning for the special choir that will lead us in worship on Easter Sunday, March 31? Join Nick Rhodes and Caleb Esmond on the sanctuary stage directly after service next Sunday, March 10. We will hear you sing a song of your choice in addition to a simple written sight-singing passage. If you were involved in the Advent Choir this past year, there is no need for you to audition.
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 Bible Study:** MPC's Women's Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Tuesday nights at the church to study 1 and 2 Kings. Connection via Zoom is available. Call or email Melodie Bajema to register and receive the study book (214-669-7135 or rbajema5@sbcglobal.net).
8. **Men's Book Group:** Interested men meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm the church to study Jimmy Davis' *Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life*. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
9. **Lenten Forum:** Please join us on Saturday, March 16, at 10:00am, in Room D-3 at the church, as we reflect on "Loving Preparations." Local attorney Mark Sutherland will speak on wills, and Wayne Baxter from North Dallas Funeral Home will speak on funerals.

News & Needs

10. **Life Change:** Life Change for March will support Will Stockdale, serving with the PCA's Ministry to State. Ministry to State's mission is to minister to government leaders, staffers and interns in Washington, DC, through one-on-one discipleship, Bible studies, and biblical world and life view formation. The Life Change basket will be in the back of the sanctuary this week. If you prefer, you can write a check with "Life Change" written in the memo line, or you can give online via Realm.
11. **Safeguarding Committee:** MPC is committed to being a community that is free of sexual harassment. If you are harassed at church, contact Diane Kizziar (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).

High Fives & Thanks

12. **Chili Cook-Off & Square Dance:** Thanks to everyone who participated in last night's fellowship event. Special thanks to everyone who brought food and/or helped with set-up and/or tear-down.

Prayer Requests

13. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
14. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **MPC Music Team** - For God's blessing on all members of our Sunday Morning Music Team, including Music Director Nick Rhodes and Pianist Caleb Esmond.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's provision.
15. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, 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, Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Carol Revell, Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Lydia Judith and new mom and dad, Madeleine and Caleb Esmond.
 - **Other Issues** - For God's blessing on Colton and Maurane Huckaby, who are sorting out immigration questions.

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.



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 this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$5,999; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$244,923; and projected giving to-date - \$275,962. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



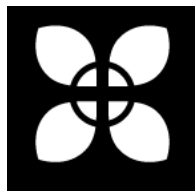
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org

The Session (Elders)

Rick Bajema
Bill Camp
Rick Carruth
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Bill Lovell
Larry Perry
James Woods

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas
Vianny D'Souza
Will Grover
Brian Ray



Bill Lovell

Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble
Paul Hartgrove
Diane Kizziar

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Music Director
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Youth Director
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