



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## The King & His Kingdom

**Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 10, 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

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## Call to Worship - Psalm 103: 8-13

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Unison: He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.**

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**Unison: As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father shows compassion to His children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

# We Respond To God's Call

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## Opening Hymn - "Come, Ye Sinners"

Come, ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy;  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call;  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam;  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The incarnate God, ascended,  
Pleads the merit of His blood;  
Venture on Him, venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good;  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

## **Acknowledging God's Presence**

### **Worship Theme - "The Family of God"**

#### **Theme Verses - Matthew 12:41**

[Jesus asked] "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

#### **Hymn - "Behold the Family of God"**

Behold the family of God,  
Weak sinners all but One:  
Disciples, washed, redeemed, restored,  
Adopted through God's Son.

Now made Christ's brothers, one with Him,  
His Father's love we share;  
And, graciously, God shows us all  
A mother's tender care.

Like James and Joseph, Simon, Jude,  
Like favored Mary too,  
The Holy Spirit strengthens us  
God's holy will to do.

Born of the Spirit and of grace,  
For us there is no pride;  
Our only hope and confidence:  
The blood of Him who died.

So, brothers, sisters, one in Christ,  
To Christ alone, we cling,  
And as the family of God,  
To Jesus let us sing!

# We Confess Our Sins

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## Call to Confession

### 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 - "He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions"

Trinity Hymnal #244

He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;  
For our guilt He gave us peace,  
From our bondage gave release,  
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,  
And with His stripes our souls are healed.

He was numbered among transgressors,  
We did esteem Him forsaken by His God;  
As our sacrifice He died,  
That the law be satisfied,  
And all our sin, and all our sin,  
And all our sin was laid on Him.

We had wandered, we all had wandered  
Far from the fold of "the Shepherd of the sheep";  
But He sought us where we were,  
On the mountains bleak and bare,  
And brought us home, and brought us home,  
And brought us safely home to God.

Who can number His generation?  
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?  
Millions dead now live again,  
Myriads follow in His train!  
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,  
Victorious Lord and coming King!

## We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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### **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**

*Please greet those around you in Christ's name.*

### **Hymn - "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"**

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
And calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,  
And to the weary rest.

Dear Name! The rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place,  
My never failing treas'ry filled  
With boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,  
And cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see Thee as Thou art,  
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim  
With ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name  
Refresh my soul in death. "

### **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

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### **Reading God's Word - Matthew 12:43-50**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

### **Understanding and Applying God's Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"The Family of God"**

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

## We Commune At God's Table

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### **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 dispose of used cups in the receptacles as you leave.*

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your family. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, You have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of His body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and singleness of heart. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

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### **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 - "Nothing But the Blood"**

Trinity Hymnal #307

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

#### **(Refrain)**

O precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my pardon this my plea:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**  
Nothing can for sin atone;

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done;  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

This is all my hope and peace:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

Now by this I'll overcome:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Now by this I'll reach my home:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

## God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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### **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.

**"Come, Ye Sinners"** Words by Joseph Hart, Music arr. LW Brodine. **"Behold the Family of God"** Words by Bill Lovell, music by Thomas Tallis, 1567. **"He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions"** Words by Thomas O. Chisholm, Music by Merrill Dunlop – © 1941 Singspiration Music/ASCAP. Used by permission of The Benson Co., Inc. **"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"** music by Alexander R. Reinagle, words by John Newton, arr. by Bill Moore, © Bill Moore Music. **"Nothing but the Blood"** Words and music by Robert Lowry. CCLI License #451603.



## Sermon Text

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### **English Standard Version - Matthew 12:43-50**

43 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

46 While He was still speaking to the people, behold, His mother and His brothers stood outside, asking to speak to Him. 48 But He replied to the man who told Him, "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?" 49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

## Sermon Notes

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### **Matthew 12:43-50**

Pastor Bill Lovell

### **"The Family of God"**

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

*"We are not fit for a place in God's family; the idea of His loving and exalting us sinners as He loves and has exalted the Lord Jesus sounds ludicrous and wild—yet that, and nothing less than that, is what our adoption means." J.I. Packer, *Knowing God**

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - March 10, 2024

1. **Fourth Sunday of Lent:** Today is the fourth 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 John Fowler. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Colton Huckaby.
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 this morning's service. 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. **Ladies Night Out:** Join us on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00pm, at Kostas Greek Cafe (1050 West Park Blvd. Plano, TX ). Enjoy food, fun, fellowship, and the chance to get to know other ladies in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

## News & Needs

10. **Church Office Closed:** MPC Administrative Assistant Laura Stites will be taking PTO this week, March 13-15. All three days, Pastor Bill will be in and out of the office, so please call to make an appointment if you need to speak to him.
11. **Life Change:** Life Change for March will support Will Stockdale, serving with the PCA's ministry to government leaders, staffers and interns in Washington, DC. 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.
12. **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

13. **Children's & Youth Sunday School:** Big thanks to all our Sunday School teachers and volunteers, including Camma Fowler, Colton Huckaby, Hayden Bernays, Liz Withers, and Joseph Marble.

## Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
  - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **MPC Children's Sunday School** - For God's blessing on all our Children's Sunday School participants, parents, teachers, and volunteers.
  - **Church Finances** - For God's provision.
16. **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), 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 - \$10,329; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$255,363; and projected giving to-date - \$283,846. 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](mailto:info@metrocrestchurch.org)

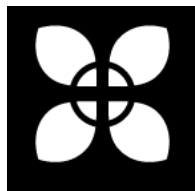
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**The Session (Elders)**

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



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**Bill Lovell**

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

Pastor  
Administrative Assistant  
Music Director  
Treasurer  
Youth Director  
Safeguarding Committee  
Safeguarding Committee

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