



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Meaning of the Resurrection

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 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

Responsive Call to Worship from Psalm 40:1-3

Leader: I waited patiently for the LORD;

Unison: He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Leader: He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

Unison: And set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

Leader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Unison: Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Come People of the Risen King”

Come people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!
Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace. **(Refrain)**

Come young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age:
Our God is all in all. **(Refrain)**

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - Understanding Christ's Resurrection

Theme Verses

[Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures..." Luke 24:44-45

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Trinity Hymnal #164

O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim;
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Holy Lord, the affront of our sinfulness requires more repayment than we can offer. We cannot earn Your approval by our attempts to be righteous; we cannot overcome our offenses, even by our

most sincere repentance. We need Christ's perfect righteousness counted to us, that we might stand in Your presence without guilt or shame, being counted even as Your children. Give us grace to live in joyful knowledge of Your love and mercy toward us, and grace to live in righteous obedience to Your holy Word.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on Rom. 8:1-2

Leader: Hear the good news! There is 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. Know that if you are a believer in Jesus, God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

“Only a Holy God”

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

(Refrain)

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only;
Cry out, sing holy; forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God. **(Refrain)**

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God.
Only a Holy God. **(Refrain)**

We Profess our Faith

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 27-28

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Unison: God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink,

health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

Leader: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

Unison: We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

Greeting

“The Power of the Cross”

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men; torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

(Refrain)

This the power of the cross,
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. **(Refrain)**

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head;
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
“Finished” the victory cry. **(Refrain)**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love. **(Refrain)**

This the power of the cross,
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Prayer of Intercession - MPC Elder – Paul Hartgrove

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Luke 24:1-35

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"United with Christ, United with One Another"

Sermon Series: "The Meaning of the Resurrection"

Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our website

We Commune At God's Table

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Unison: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Unison: It is right for us 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.

Leader: Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray, saying:

Unison: 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.

Holy Communion

We Respond To God's Grace

Giving to Support Gospel Ministry

"Jesus I My Cross Have Taken"

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee -
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known -
Yet how rich is my condition:
God and heaven are still my own.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me,
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Hasten on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer.
Heav'n's eternal day's before me;
God's own hand shall guide me there.
Soon shall close my earthly mission,
Soon shall pass my pilgrim days.
Hope shall change to glad fruition;
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing Blessing

Postlude and Meditation

"Come People of the Risen King" Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend – Text © 2007 Thankyou Music, All rights reserved. **"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason. **"Only a Holy God"** Words and Music by Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson – © 2016 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Integrity's Praise! Music. All rights reserved. **"The Power of the Cross"** Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend - © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI song # 4490766 **"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"** Words by Henry Lyte, music by W.A. Mozart, alt. by Bill Moore – © 2001 Bill Moore Music, used by permission, all rights reserved. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Luke 24:1-35

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to

each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon Notes

Luke 24:1-35

Pastor Bill Lovell

"United with Christ, United with One Another"

Church Life Notes

Today

1. **Happy Easter!** Easter is far too important to keep to just one day, so at Metrocrest we celebrate Easter for a whole season—seven Sundays! Now through May 21st, we will join Christians around the world in reflecting in a special way on the meaning of Christ's resurrection.
2. **Welcome to Our Guests!** We are excited you are here. Members of the Welcome Team will be looking for you to say hi.
3. **Holy Communion:** We will share the Lord's Supper this morning. All baptized persons who worship the Lord Jesus Christ and are in communion with His church are welcome to receive. Please come forward as directed. We offer both grape juice and, in the outer ring of each tray, in tinted cups, wine. Please take the elements to your seat and wait to consume them until we do so together. Please dispose of cups at the back of the church as you leave.
4. **This Sunday is Life Change Sunday.** Life Change for the month of April will support Metro Relief of Dallas, a Christian organization that helps people experiencing homelessness get off the streets through an all-mobile, person-centered, and solution-first approach. Every week, their staff and volunteers take mobile resource buses out to build relationships by providing food, socks, hygiene kits, and prayer to our friends on the streets.
5. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6-8 pm 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 5:15 pm.
6. **Prayer Requests:** You can share your prayer requests in either of two ways: (1) use one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) point your smartphone camera at the QR code on the back of this morning's program to access a digital card. Please indicate whether your request is private or public.

Upcoming Activities & Events

7. **Metrocrest Mayors' Prayer Breakfast:** Christians from the Metrocrest communities will gather on Thursday, May 5th, at 7 AM, to pray. Tickets are \$30 each. Interested in attending? Speak to Pastor Bill.
8. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 9 am until the end of the term.
9. **Adult Sunday School:** Adults meet for Sunday School Sunday mornings at 9 am. James Woods is leading a study of the Gospel of Mark.
10. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us at the church on **Tuesday evenings at 7 pm** as we study *Grace at Work* by PCA Pastor Bryan Chapell. For more info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Christian Stewart (480-370-8968, c.r.stewart1993@gmail.com).
11. **Christian Community Action:** Please join us on **Wednesday, April 19th**, from 5:30-8:00 pm 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.

News & Needs

12. **Going-Away Reception:** Metrocrest will thank Colin and Sarah Deay for their faithful ministry among us with prayers and a going-away reception after church on April 30th.
13. **Hospitality Team:** Offering coffee and refreshments is a wonderful Metrocrest tradition. Hospitality Team Leader Diane Kizziar needs volunteers to work a few Sundays per quarter. This is a simple and doable ministry that makes a great impact! Please speak to Diane to sign up.
14. **Budget Update:** The Treasurer, working alongside others in Church leadership, has found reductions to the 2022-2023 budget. Budgeted expenditures have been reduced by \$31,140. This change is reflected in the giving numbers shown on the back of the service bulletin. If there are questions, please speak with the Treasurer, Deacon Will Grover.

High Fives & Thanks

15. **Welcome, Christian Rhodes:** It was a joy on Easter Sunday morning to baptize Christian Rhodes, newborn son of Raquel and Nick.
16. **Social Media & Photographs:** Huge thanks to new member Alana Marion who has kindly agreed to help MPC upgrade its presence on social media (mainly Facebook and Instagram). She'll also be taking photos during services and at church events. Just let her know if you don't want your picture online.
17. **Thanks to Outgoing Trustee:** Big thanks to Susan D. Smith for serving one year as a Trustee of MPC church property. Susan recently stepped down as she and her husband Paul moved to Town North PCA in Richardson.

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? Metrocrest is a praying church! You can now share your prayer requests in either of two ways: (1) use one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) point 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.

Thank you for your financial support! To fund our mission and ministry, Metrocrest depends on God's generous provision through you.

Last Week's Giving: \$7,513

Projected Giving to Date: \$388,905

Actual Giving to Date: \$340,070

Difference to date: + or - (- \$48,835)

Our budget fiscal year is July 2022 - June 2023. For budget information or stewardship assistance, you may contact the Treasurer Will Grover at treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org.



Let's get connected! **Realm** allows 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 and we will help you get on your way!

Bill Lovell
Laura Stites
Colin Deay
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music and Worship
Director-Elect of Music
Treasurer
Youth Director

bill@metrocrestchurch.org
laura@metrocrestchurch.org
colin@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
Josh Wyman