



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Meaning of the Resurrection

Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 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

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship from Psalm 34:1-3

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times;

Unison: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

Unison: Let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

Unison: And let us exalt His name together!

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say,

(Refrain)

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name.

You give and take away;
You give and take away;
And my heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name. **(Refrain)**

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - Hope and Resurrection

Theme Verses

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading... 1 Peter 1:3-4

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Trinity Hymnal #92

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood,
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He:
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure:
One little Word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.

Let good and kindred go –
This mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty and most merciful God, 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. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may live a holy, just, and joyful life to the glory of Your holy name.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on Titus 3:4-6

Leader: Hear the good news! When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Refrain)

He will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight; Christ will hold me fast.
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last.
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. **(Refrain)**

For my life He bled and died; Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life; He will hold me fast.
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last. **(Refrain)**

We Profess Our Faith

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 29-30

Leader: Why is the Son of God called *Jesus*, that is, Savior?

Unison: **Because He saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.**

Leader: Do those who seek their salvation or well-being in saints, in themselves, or anywhere else, also believe in the only Savior Jesus?

Unison: **No. Though they boast of Him in words, they in fact deny the only Savior Jesus. For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Savior, or those who by true faith accept this Savior must find in Him all that is necessary for their salvation.**

Greeting

“Christ is Risen”

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us –
Freely You've bled for us.

(Refrain)

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake!
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake!
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will.
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign –
Forever let Your church proclaim! **(Refrain)**

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light –
The glory of God has defeated the night,
Singing O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light –
Our God is not dead, He's alive, He's alive! **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Intercession - MPC Deacon Will Grover

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Luke 24:36-43

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Physicality of the Resurrection"

Sermon Series: "The Meaning of the Resurrection"

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

We Respond To God's Grace

Giving to Support Gospel Ministry

"Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"

Trinity Hymnal #498

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

(Refrain)

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins. **(Refrain)**

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul. **(Refrain)**

Jesus! What a guide and keeper!
While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o'ertakes me,
He, my Pilot, hears my cry. **(Refrain)**

Jesus! I do now receive Him;
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine. **(Refrain)**

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing Blessing

Postlude and Meditation

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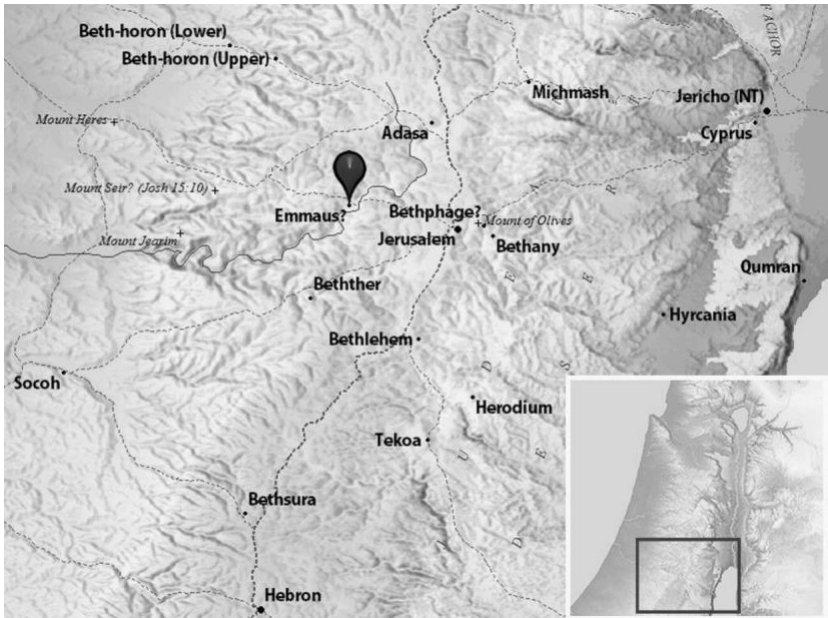
Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Luke 24:36-43

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

Greek New Testament - Luke 24:36-43

³⁶ Ταῦτα δὲ αὐτῶν λαλοῦντων αὐτὸς ἔστη ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. ³⁷ πτοηθέντες δὲ καὶ ἔμφοβοι γενόμενοι ἐδόκουν πνεῦμα θεωρεῖν. ³⁸ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Τί τεταραγμένοι ἐστέ, καὶ διὰ τί διαλογισμοὶ ἀναβαίνουσιν ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν; ³⁹ ἴδετε τὰς χεῖράς μου καὶ τοὺς πόδας μου ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι αὐτός: ψηλαφήσατέ με καὶ ἴδετε, ὅτι πνεῦμα σάρκα καὶ ὀστέα οὐκ ἔχει καθὼς ἐμὲ θεωρεῖτε ἔχοντα. ⁴⁰ καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τοὺς πόδας. ⁴¹ ἔτι δὲ ἀπιστοῦντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς καὶ θαυμαζόντων εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Ἔχετε τι βρώσιμον ἐνθάδε; ⁴² οἱ δὲ ἐπέδωκαν αὐτῷ ἰχθύος ὀπποῦ μέρος: ⁴³ καὶ λαβὼν ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν ἔφαγεν.



Luke 24:36-43

Pastor Bill Lovell

“The Physicality of the Resurrection”

Introduction

1. Confusion about the Resurrection (vv 36-37)

2. The Physicality of the Resurrection (v 38)

A. "Flesh and bones" (vv 39-40)

B. "A piece of broiled fish" (vv 41-43)

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. Through the end of May—over a total of fifty days—we will be joining Christians around the world in reflecting on the deep significance 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. **Prayer Requests:** You can share prayer requests in either of two ways: (1) complete one of the prayer request cards found in the lobby; or (2) point your smartphone camera at the QR code on the back of this morning's program to fill out a digital card. Please indicate whether your prayer request is private (officers and staff only) or public.
4. **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.

Upcoming Activities & Events

5. **Deays' Going-Away Reception:** Metrocrest will thank Colin and Sarah Deay for their faithful ministry with prayers and a going-away reception after church next Sunday, April 30th.
6. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth meet for Sunday School Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am.
7. **Adult Sunday School:** Adults meet for Sunday School Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am. James Woods is leading a study of the Gospel of Mark.
8. **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).
9. **Metrocrest Mayors' Prayer Breakfast:** Christians from the Metrocrest communities will gather to pray on Thursday, May 5th, at 7 am. Tickets are \$30 each. Interested in attending? Speak to Pastor Bill.

News & Needs

10. **Life Change** for the month of April is going to 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.
11. **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.

12. **Budget Update:** Treasurer Will Grover, working alongside others in Church leadership, has identified reductions to the 2022-2023 budget. Budgeted expenditures have been reduced by \$31,140. This change is also reflected in the giving numbers shown on the back of the service bulletin. If there are questions, please speak with Will.

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Welcome Our Newest Members:** Please extend a warm Metrocrest welcome to Hayden and June Bernays, who were admitted by the Session last Sunday as Communing Members.
14. **Blessing Church Staff Lunch:** Huge thanks to Pastor Yoon Lee of the Blessing Church for hosting the MPC staff to lunch at Gen Korean BBQ this past Wednesday.
15. **Congratulations to Pastor Bill:** On Thursday of this past week, Pastor Bill Lovell was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club. Pastor Bill sees his work in the community as a part of his ministry at Metrocrest.

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 share your prayer requests with us 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: \$5,903

Projected Giving to Date: \$399,150

Actual Giving to Date: \$345,973

Difference to date: + or - (- \$53,177)

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
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The Session (Elders)

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Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons

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