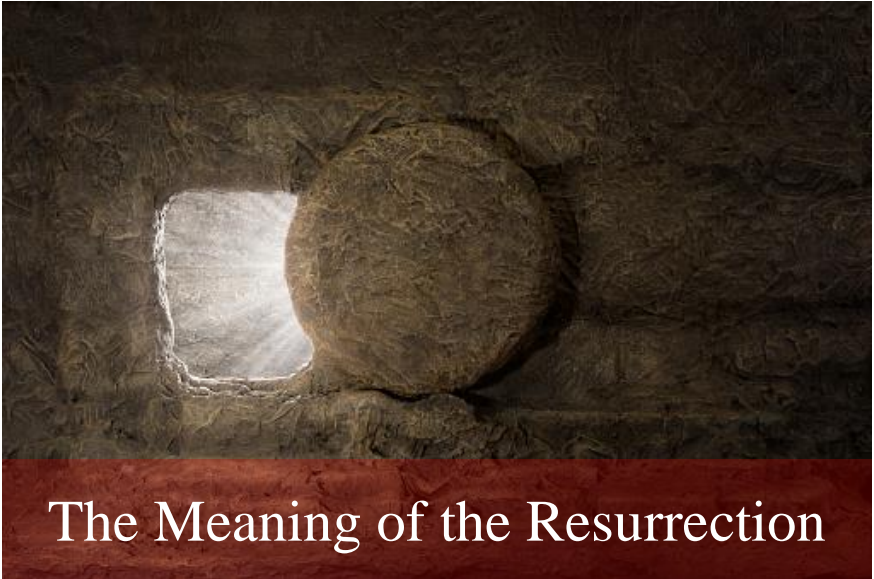




METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 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

Call to Worship - Psalm 47:1-2

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!

Unison: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Leader: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

Unison: A great king over all the earth.

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed”

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice,
To conquer every sting of death –
Sing, sing hallelujah!

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ’s disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King –
Christ, Christ He is risen!

(Refrain)

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah!

Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of grace,
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting. **(Refrain)**

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace –
Go, tell of His goodness! **(Refrain)**

He is risen – He's alive! He's alive!
Heaven's gates are opened wide
He's alive! He's alive!
Now in heaven glorified.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - The Resurrected Christ Is King Over All

Theme Verses

Christ is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Hebrews 1:3-4

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Trinity Hymnal #295

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end;
And round His pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime:

All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty God, our Everlasting Father, we confess that we have sinned against You. We confess that while You have faithfully reached out to us, we have been reluctant to heed Your call. We confess that we have too often ignored Your invitation to love, to follow, to serve. We confess that we have too often pretended that we were healthy when we knew in our hearts we needed You to heal us. Forgive us and open our hearts to Your love. Open our hands and open our eyes for opportunities to serve You.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon - 1 Peter 2:24

Leader: Hear the good news! Jesus Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

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.

“Jesus Paid It All”

Trinity Hymnal #308

I hear the Savior say,
“Your strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in me your all in all.”

(Refrain)

Jesus paid it all;
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find
Your power, and Yours alone,
Can change the leper's spots,
And melt the heart of stone. **(Refrain)**

For nothing good have I
Whereby Your grace to claim –
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. **(Refrain)**

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat. **(Refrain)**

We Profess Our Faith

Affirmation of Faith - Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q+A 23 & 26

Leader: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Unison: **Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

Leader: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

Unison: **Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.**

Greeting

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You!
All on earth Your scepter claim;
All in heaven above adore You!
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign;
Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;

Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

Lo! The apostolic train
Join the sacred name to hallow.
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on;
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim You;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery;
While we own the mystery.

Prayer of Intercession

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Luke 24:50-53

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Resurrected Christ's Cosmic Coronation"

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

"Before the Throne of God Above"

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea:

A great High Priest, whose name is Love,

Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands.
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because a sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me;
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of glory and of grace!
One in Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing Blessing - Hebrews 13:20-21

Postlude and Meditation

"Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed" Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Ed Cash – © 2012 Capitol CMG Paragon, Getty Music Publishing. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 451603. **"Crown Him with Many Crowns"** Words by Matthew Bridges, Music by George J. Elvey. CCLI License # 451603. **"Jesus Paid it All"** Words by Elvina M. Hall, Music by John T. Grape. **"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"** Translated by Clarence Alphoneus Walworth. **"Before the Throne of God Above"** Words and music by Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook - © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship. All rights reserved. CCLI song # 2306412.

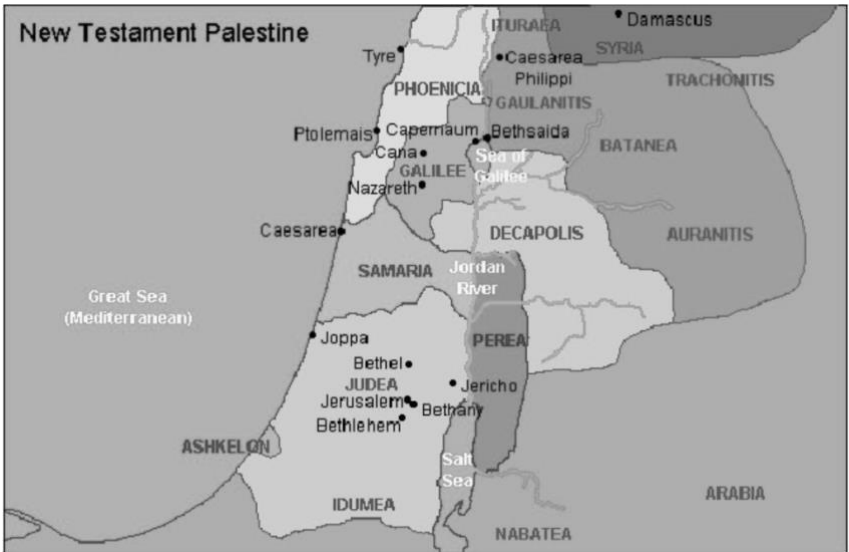
Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Luke 24:50-53

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Greek New Testament - Luke 24:50-53

50 Ἐξήγαγεν δὲ αὐτοὺς [ἔξω] ἕως πρὸς Βηθανίαν, καὶ ἐπάρας τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ εὐλόγησεν αὐτούς. 51 καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εὐλογεῖν αὐτὸν αὐτοὺς διέστη ἀπ' αὐτῶν καὶ ἀνεφέρετο εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. 52 Καὶ αὐτοὶ προσκυνήσαντες αὐτὸν ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης, 53 καὶ ἦσαν διὰ παντὸς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ εὐλογοῦντες τὸν θεόν.



Sermon Notes

Luke 24:50-53

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Resurrected Christ's Cosmic Coronation"

Introduction

1. The Resurrected Christ Blessed His Disciples

"The very last thing His disciples see Jesus doing to them is blessing them. It is the last sight they have of Jesus — it is of Him blessing them." Ligon Duncan

2. His Disciples Worshiped the Resurrected Christ

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. From Easter until Pentecost, May 28th—a total of fifty days—we are joining Christians around the world in reflecting 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. **Serving Today:** The scheduled Service Leader this morning is Paul Hartgrove. The scheduled Prayer Leader is James Woods.
4. **New Music Director:** With Colin Deay's departure last weekend, Music Director-Elect Nick Rhodes is now THE Music Director, with responsibility for planning and overseeing MPC's music program. We are grateful for Nick and look forward to his ministry among us. Please note Nick has another very full-time job, so he is only available 15 hours per week. Pastor Bill, with the Session's oversight, will handle liturgical planning.
5. **Gift Bible for Colin:** If you missed the opportunity to sign the ESV Reformation Study Bible which is being presented to Colin as a Thank You gift, it is available today for signature in the Lobby.
6. **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 and fill out a digital card. Please indicate whether your prayer request is private (officers and staff only) or public.
7. **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

8. **Stated Session Meeting:** The Session will meet for its next Stated Meeting on Wednesday, May 10th, at 6 pm in Room D-03. Members of the church are welcome to attend.
9. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth meet for Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am through May 21st.
10. **Adult Sunday School:** Adults meet for Sunday School Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am. This morning, James Woods finished our study of the Gospel of Mark. Next Sunday, May 14th, Pastor Bill has scheduled "MPC Leadership Unplugged" to answer questions

and discuss future plans. On May 21st and 28th, James Woods is set to lead two discussion on the Solas of the Reformation.

11. **Ladies Night Out:** Please join us for our next Ladies' Hang Out on **Wednesday, May 10th at 7 pm**, at La Meglio (5588 TX-121 #300, Plano 7024) Come out for food, fun, fellowship, and to get to know other ladies in a relaxed environment.
12. **Youth Lake House Weekend:** Elizabeth Lloyd and her family have graciously invited the youth group out to their lake house on June 2nd - 4th. We'll meet at the church at 5:15 pm on Friday and will return by the end of worship on Sunday. The cost per student is \$30. For more details or questions, please reach out to our Youth Director Joseph Marble (joseph@metrocrestchurch.org).

News & Needs

13. If you'd like to sign the Bible that was presented to Colin and Sarah Deay as a token of our appreciation, it'll be available in the lobby.
14. **Life Change** for the month of May will support The Covenant Fund that was put in place to support the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. This fund will help assist with the immediate and ongoing relief and restoration of people and property affected by the recent shooting at the Covenant School on the church campus.
15. **Christian Community Action:** Please join us on **Wednesday, April 17th**, 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.
16. **Hospitality Team:** Offering refreshments is a wonderful Metrocrest tradition. Hospitality Team Leader Diane Kizziar needs volunteers to work a few Sundays per quarter. Please speak to Diane to sign up.
17. **Budget Update:** Treasurer Will Grover has identified reductions to the 2022-2023 budget, and expenditures have been reduced by \$31,140. This change is also reflected in the giving numbers shown on the back of the bulletin. For questions, please speak with Will.

High Fives & Thanks

18. **Outgoing Deacon:** Metrocrest extends a huge thanks to outgoing Deacon Josh Wyman.
19. **Children's Sunday School:** We are very grateful for outgoing Children's Sunday School Coordinator Gwen Sterenberg and for Gwen's incoming successor Liz Withers.
20. **Youth Ministry:** MPC is also very grateful for the faithful ministry of outgoing Youth Ministry volunteer Elizabeth Lloyd.
21. **Window Cleaning:** Huge thanks to Elder Steve Wallin who took the better part of a whole afternoon this past week to wash and clean the church windows.

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: \$9,374

Projected Giving to Date: \$419,640

Actual Giving to Date: \$363,855

Difference to date: + or - (- \$55,785)

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
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director

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laura@metrocrestchurch.org
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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover