



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship
Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
October 1, 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

Call to Worship - Luke 5:31-32

Leader: Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

Unison: **"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."**

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "And Can it Be That I Should Gain"

Trinity Hymnal #455, verses 1, 3-5

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

(Refrain)

Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite His grace!),
Humbled Himself (so great His love!)
And bled for all His chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me. **(Refrain)**

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. **(Refrain)**

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own. **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "Jesus Calls Sinners to Follow Him"

Theme Verses - Matthew 9:9-10

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed Him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and His disciples.

Hymn - "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer –
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome!
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread. I know I am forgiven –
The future sure, the price, it has been paid,
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released. I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home,
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession - Adapted from Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen.

Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.

Assurance of Pardon - 1 John 1:8-9

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Hymn - "Man of Sorrows! What a Name"

Trinity Hymnal #246

Man of Sorrows! What a name
For the Son of God, who came,
Ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in heav'n exalted high:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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 - "Will You Retreat, O Everlasting Arms?"

Will you retreat, O everlasting arms?
And should I fall, will you uphold me still?
Though sin enchants, and foolish dreaming charms,
Will you renew my marrow and my will?
What wondrous grace! Though still my sin alarms,
Love stronger far all righteousness fulfills.

My dwelling place, my God, remain and be;
Shelter and comfort, safety in the fight;
My sword and shield, arrayed in majesty;
I trust, not my, but my great Savior's might.
I hear the cry of finished victory;
Sustain me, Lord, until my faith is sight.

Behold Him there, arms stretched upon the tree;
Carrying wrath, inviting sinners: "come."
Those arms, eternal, holding tight to me -
Embrace of love, not to be parted from;
Beloved Savior, evermore to be,
In life, in death, my sure eternal home.

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.

Prayer of Intercession

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 9:9-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Ruling Elder Bill Camp

"Jesus Calls Sinners to Follow Him"

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Closing Hymn - "By Faith"

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

(Refrain)

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward,
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed for Messiah would appear,
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In ev'ry corner of the earth. **(Refrain)**

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible,
For all who call upon His Name. **(Refrain)**

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Closing Blessing - 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

“And Can it Be that I Should Gain” Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Thomas Campbell.
“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me” Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren – © 2018 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, All Rights Reserved. **“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”** Words and music by Philip P. Bliss. **“Will You Retreat, O Everlasting Arms?”** Words and Music by Colin Deay - © 2020 Colin Deay. **“By Faith”** © 2009 Thankyou Music; Getty Music Publishing. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 9:9-13

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed Him.

10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

New International Version - Matthew 9:9-13

9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Sermon Notes

Matthew 9:9-13

Ruling Elder Bill Camp

"Jesus Calls Sinners to Follow Him"

1. Jesus' Strange Choice of a Disciple

2. The Pharisees' Offense

3. The Great Physician Indeed

Church Life Notes

Today - October 1, 2023

1. **Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost!** Pentecost is a season focused on discipleship. For the next several months, between now and Advent, we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew.
2. **Preaching Today:** We are blessed to have as our preacher this morning Ruling Elder Bill Camp who is filling in for Pastor Bill Lovell, who's on personal leave.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Ruling Elder Paul Hartgrove. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Deacon Will Grover, who will also deliver this morning's announcements.
4. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
5. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for middle and high school youth will meet from 6:00-8:00pm at the church. Tonight please join us for a special night of testimonies given by our leaders. **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.
6. **Wedding Setup:** All who are able are asked to please stay for a few minutes after the service to help set up the chairs for Colton and Maurane Huckaby's wedding ceremony next Saturday afternoon.

Upcoming Activities & Events

7. **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** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*. Led by James Woods.
8. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us in person or via Zoom on **Tuesdays**, as we study Jonathan Pennington's ***Come and See***. **The author** uses the analogy of a road trip to introduce three friends who each have distinct ways of navigating the Bible: Informational, Theological, and Transformational. For more info, and to RSVP, contact Paul Hartgrove (at 972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).
9. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.

News & Needs

10. **Facility Use:** All facility use inquiries **must** be submitted through the church office to Administrative Assistant Laura Stites (laura@metrocrestchurch.org, 972-394-1122) via our Facility Use Application. This form is available in the Lobby, and beginning this week, online. For questions, please contact the church office.
11. **Life Change:** This month's collection will support Maui Disaster Relief. The fires that started in early August, driven by 80 mph winds, burned more than 2,100 acres and FEMA has estimated that 2,207 buildings have been destroyed. Please join us in partnering with MNA Disaster Response and our Brothers and Sisters in the Northern California Presbytery to help meet the needs of those affected by this terrible tragedy.

High Fives & Thanks

12. **Congratulations:** Colton and Maurane Huckaby celebrated their civil wedding ceremony yesterday in Gex, France, in accordance with French practice. Their Christian wedding ceremony is next Saturday, October 6, at Metrocrest.
13. **Charlie Horton:** Big thank you to Charlie for helping the church cut down a dead tree, saving us hundreds of dollars in the process!

Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
 - **Sinners whom Jesus Is Calling to Himself** - For God's mercy on all those whom Jesus calls.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deep and deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach out to them with the saving gospel of grace.
 - **ESL** - For God's blessing on Brian Ray and his team of volunteers as they launch an ESL program at MPC, aimed at our non-English-speaking neighbors.
16. **For One Another:**
 - **Colton Huckaby and Maurane Gisiger** - For God's blessing on their marriage.
 - **Friend of Elinor Hite:** For God's mercy on the family and friends of Gus, a friend of Elinor Hite who died this week.
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on all those who are having health issues, including Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Carole Fowkes, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ellen Perry, Larry Perry, Ron Revell, David Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Scarlett Avery, newborn daughter of Teddy and Melissa Brewer; and Madeleine Esmond, expectant mommy due in January.

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 and share more information about our church.



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 two months into the new fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$3,231; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$78,055; and our projected giving to-date - \$102,500. We know these are difficult times for everyone. 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 through the church office at info@metrocrestchurch.org!

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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover