



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship
Twenty-Second Sunday of Pentecost
October 22, 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

Thanking God for Thirty-Four Years of Faithfulness Towards Us

Call to Worship - Isaiah 52:7-8 (NIV)

Leader: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,

Unison: Who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Leader: Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.

Unison: When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

Trinity Hymnal #165

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still He is nigh – His presence we have.
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,
All glory and pow'r, and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "Jesus Opens Our Eyes and Our Mouths"

Theme Verses - Matthew 9:20-22

As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel."

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)**

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 - "Amazing Grace"

Trinity Hymnal #460

Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound –
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

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 - "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.

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

Thanksgiving for God's Faithfulness

Leader: Sovereign Father, on this day, we specially thank You for Your faithfulness to Metrocrest over thirty-four years. In your mercy, You have blessed us again and again, and provided for us without fail. You have sustained us through difficult times. Though we have often stumbled, You have never wavered.

Unison: **Thank You, Father, for Your faithfulness.**

Leader: We thank You, Father, for the vision and generosity of Town North Presbyterian Church in Richardson, our mother church, who, with love and faith, planted our little fellowship here in Carrollton, to serve the Metrocrest communities and to proclaim the gospel of your Son Jesus Christ to our corner of North Texas.

Unison: **Thank You, Father, for Your faithfulness.**

Leader: We thank You for entrusting us with Your Word, to instruct us, to encourage us, to nourish us, to discipline and admonish us, and in time to build us up to become more like Your Son, that, by Your Spirit, we may be empowered for Christlike mission and ministry in our day.

Unison: **Thank You, Father, for Your faithfulness.**

Leader: We thank You for each person and each family whom You have called to this place, to worship You, to sing Your praises, to share fellowship in Your Spirit, to read and study Your Word, and to bear witness to Your Son, that many, many others might come to know You and worship You.

Unison: **Thank You, Father, for Your faithfulness.**

Leader: Now, Father, as we at Metrocrest begin another year of ministry, we ask that You please bless us once again with all we need to do Your work, that You forgive our many shortcomings and failings, and that You open our eyes and our mouths, so that, in all we say and do, Your Son will be glorified among us.

Unison: **We pray all these things, Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 9:27-34

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"Jesus Opens Our Eyes and Our Mouths"

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Closing Hymn - "O Church Arise"

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle;
That we may run with faith, to win the prize
Of a servant, good and faithful.

As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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.

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Church Life Notes

Today - October 22, 2023

1. **Twenty-Second 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. **Happy Thirty-Fourth Anniversary!** Today we are celebrating 34 years of God's faithfulness to us at Metrocrest. During this morning's service, we will be specially thanking God and praying for His continued mercy. We will also seek to understand and apply His Word to the life and work of our church. Afterwards, you are invited to join us for refreshments in the Lobby.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is James Woods. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove. Our scheduled Preacher is Pastor Bill Lovell.
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:** There will be no youth group activities this evening, as we'll be returning from our Rocktober retreat.

Upcoming Activities & Events

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** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*.
7. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us in person or via Zoom **on Tuesdays**, as we study Jonathan Pennington's ***Come and See***. For more information, contact Paul Hartgrove (at 972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).
8. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.
9. **Women's Ministry:** Welcome baby Scarlett! Metrocrest Church and the Brewer's extended family would like to invite all the ladies to celebrate Melissa and Scarlett. The come-and-go baby shower will be held on Saturday, November 4, from 4pm-6:30pm at the church. Please limit any gifts to diapers & gift cards (food, Kroger, Kohls). RSVP to Amy Anderson at fergiemouse@hotmail.com. See you there!
10. **Save the Date:** This year's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 10, at 4:30pm, followed by holiday treats and cider.

11. **Youth Sunday:** Next Sunday, the fifth Sunday of the month, members of the MPC Youth Ministry will help lead Sunday Morning Worship.

News & Needs

12. **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.

High Fives & Thanks

13. **New Shelving:** Huge thanks to the team who installed new shelving in two church storage areas. On Saturday, October 14, Steve Thomas, Pradip Patel, and Rick Bajema joined Bill Greisser in rolling up their sleeves and carefully installing two sturdy new sets of shelves, one in the closet off the Youth Room, and one off the Multipurpose Room.
14. **Yesterday's Recital:** Congratulations to our talented pianist Caleb Esmond, not only for an entertaining piano recital, but also for a fruitful opportunity to share the gospel.

Prayer Requests

15. **For The World:**
 - **Israel** - For God's mercy on the people of Israel, especially those mourning the loss of loved ones; and on civilians caught between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas.
 - **Maui, Hawaii** - For thousands of residents who are still reeling from devastating fires in the region.
16. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach out to them with the saving gospel of grace.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's continued provision.
 - **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.
17. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on those who are having health issues, including Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marris' grandmother), Larry Bounds (Paul Hartgrove's friend), Carole Fowkes (Elinor Hite's friend), 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 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? 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 - \$2,854; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$101,844; and our projected giving to-date - \$126,154. 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!

Bill Lovell
Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover