



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"Discovering God's Love . . . and Sharing It With Others!"

On October 8 at 9:30 a.m.
you are invited to join as
Metrocrest Presbyterian Church
begins worship services
at 1205 W. Trinity Mills Road
(in the Trinity Mills Village Shopping Center)

Metrocrest Presbyterian Church

Call **245-3332** for more information.

An Invitation to Our First Public Worship Service, October 8, 1989

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost November 20, 2022

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 Ps. 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

“Let All Things Now Living”

Trinity Hymnal #125

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

The Circumcision of Christ

Theme Verses

In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col. 2:11-12

“I Stand Amazed”

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner condemned unclean.

(Refrain)

Singing, how marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be,
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior’s love for me.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own,
And He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone. **(Refrain)**

And with the ransomed in glory,
His face I at last shall see.
It will be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me. **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Righteous God, though our sins testify against us, have mercy on us. Though our love is often weak and directed toward that which does not glorify You, have mercy on us. Though we go through seasons of backsliding and doubt, have mercy on us. Forgive us, O Lord, for in Christ You have redeemed us, for Your name’s sake. Forgive us, and renew us, that we may truly do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with You.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on Eph. 2:4-5

Leader: Hear the good news! God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. 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.

“Amazing Grace”

Trinity Hymnal #460, verses 1-3, 6

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.

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.

Affirmation of Faith from New City Catechism, Q+A 44-45

Leader: What is baptism?

Unison: **Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to His church.**

Leader: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Unison: **No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.**

Greet those nearby in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

“Hosanna

I see the King of glory coming on clouds with fire.
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes.
I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin.
The people sing, the people sing.

(Refrain)

Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

I see a generation rising up to take their place
With selfless faith. With selfless faith.
I see a near revival stirring as we pray and seek.
We're on our knees, we're on our knees. **(Refrain)**

Heal my heart and make it clean.
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.
Show me how to love like You have loved me.
Break my heart for what breaks Yours,
Everything I am, for Your Kingdom's cause,
As I walk from earth into eternity. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Deacon – Will Grover

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word – Acts 15:30-36

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

“The Rest of the Story”

Sermon Series: “Birth of a Church-Planting Church”

Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our web site

We Share in the Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction of the Lovell and Wood Families

Review of God's Covenant Promises

Acts 2:39 - For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

Genesis 17:7 - And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Acts 16:31 - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Examination & Profession of Faith

Leader: Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Parents: We do.

Leader: Do you claim God's covenant promises in his/her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his/her salvation, as you do for your own?

Parents: We do.

Leader: Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon God's grace, that you will endeavor to set before him/her a godly example, that you will pray with and for him/her, that you will teach him/her the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him/her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Parents: We do.

Commitment by the Congregation

Leader: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

Unison: We do.

Children in the congregation will be invited to come forward to watch the baptisms.

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism

We Respond To God's Grace

Investing In God's Work (continue in silent prayer)

"Good, Good Father"

Oh I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like,
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night;
And You tell me that Your pleased
And that I'm never alone.

(Refrain)

You're a good, good Father;
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You;
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

I've seen many searching
For answers far and wide.
But I know we're all searching
For answers only You provide,
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word. **(Refrain)**

You are perfect in all of Your ways.
You are perfect in all of Your ways.
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us. **(Refrain)**

Oh, it's love so undeniable
I can hardly speak;
Peace so unexplainable
I, I can hardly think;
As You call me deeper still,
As You call me deeper still,
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love. **(Refrain)**

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing Blessing

Postlude and Meditation

"Let All Things Now Living" Words and music by Katherine K. Davis – © E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
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Sermon Text

English Standard Version – Acts 15:30-36

30 So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. **31** And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. **32** And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. **33** And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.[a] **35** But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. **36** And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”

[a] Some manuscripts insert verse 34: *But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.*

The Message – Acts 15:30-36

30-33 And so off they went to Antioch. On arrival, they gathered the church and read the letter. The people were greatly relieved and pleased. Judas and Silas, good preachers both of them, strengthened their new friends with many words of courage and hope. Then it was time to go home. They were sent off by their new friends with laughter and embraces all around to report back to those who had sent them.

35 Paul and Barnabas stayed on in Antioch, teaching and preaching the Word of God. But they weren't alone. There were a number of teachers and preachers at that time in Antioch.

36 After a few days of this, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let's go back and visit all our friends in each of the towns where we preached the Word of God. Let's see how they're doing.”

Greek New Testament – Acts 15:30-36

30 Οἱ μὲν οὖν ἀπολυθέντες κατήλθον εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν, καὶ συναγαγόντες τὸ πλῆθος ἐπέδωκαν τὴν ἐπιστολὴν· **31** ἀναγνόντες δὲ ἐχάρησαν ἐπὶ τῇ παρακλήσει. **32** Ἰούδας τε καὶ Σιλᾶς, καὶ αὐτοὶ προφήται ὄντες, διὰ λόγου πολλοῦ παρεκάλεσαν τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ ἐπεστήριξαν· **33** ποιήσαντες δὲ χρόνον ἀπελύθησαν μετ' εἰρήνης ἀπὸ τῶν ἀδελφῶν πρὸς τοὺς ἀποστέιλαντας αὐτοὺς. **34** Παῦλος **35** δὲ καὶ Βαρναβᾶς διέτριβον ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ διδάσκοντες καὶ εὐαγγελιζόμενοι μετὰ καὶ ἑτέρων πολλῶν τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου. **36** Μετὰ δὲ τινος ἡμέρας εἶπεν πρὸς Βαρναβᾶν Παῦλος, Ἐπιστρέψαντες δὴ ἐπισκεψώμεθα τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς κατὰ πόλιν πᾶσαν ἐν αἷς κατηγγείλαμεν τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου, πῶς ἔχουσιν.

Sermon Notes

Acts 15:30-36

Pastor Bill Lovell

“The Rest of the Story”

1. The Story of the Church in Antioch (11:19-30,13:1-4,15:1-36)

2. Three of the Church's Fundamental Values

Centered on Christ

Focused on God's Word

Committed to Mission

3. The Rest of the Story

Church Life Notes

Today

1. **Happy Pentecost:** Today is the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost. Pentecost is a season when the church traditionally reflects on discipleship and spiritual growth and maturity in the church.
2. **Welcome to Our Guests!** We are excited you are here. Members of the Welcome Team will be looking for you to say hi during the service and afterward in the Lobby.
3. **Life Change Sunday:** Today's Life Change Collection is being taken in support of MPC's Assistance Fund. All donations will be used by the Board of Deacons to assist members of the church, and others, in material need.
4. **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.
5. **Prayer Meeting:** On a trial basis, MPC is offering an opportunity each week to gather as a church to pray for individual and corporate needs. Watch for details.
6. **Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. Enjoy the beginning of Thanksgiving week with your family!

Upcoming Activities & Events

7. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth plan to meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 9 am, through May 21st, except for December 25th, January 1st, and Easter, April 9th.
8. **Adult Sunday School:** Deacon Will Grover will be continuing our study of Dane Ortlund's book, "Gentle and Lowly" at 9 am in Room D-04.
9. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us at the church on **Tuesday evenings at 7 pm** as we read and discuss *Rediscovering Humility* by Christopher Hutchinson. More details are available via Realm. If you have questions, reach out to Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Christian Stewart (480-370-8968, c.r.stewart1993@gmail.com).
10. **Women's Prayer:** On Wednesdays from 10-11 am, a Ladies' Prayer Time is hosted by Gwen Sterenberg via Zoom. More details and the Zoom meeting invitation are available via Realm or through the church office.
11. **2022 CCA Giving Tree:** We have an amazing opportunity to serve with CCA this month by **purchasing a gift from one of the tags on the CCA Giving Tree located in the lobby**. This program, which MPC has participated in for years, helps CCA provide Christmas presents for children of families in need. Gifts should be returned to the church unwrapped with the CCA tag attached by **Sunday, December 4th**.
12. **Advent Decorating:** On **Saturday, November 26th at 10 am**, we'll be decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands make light work, so if you're available, please come and help!

13. **Women's Bible Study:** Please join us on the second Saturday of December (12/10) at the church at 9:30 am as we conclude our study on "The Christian Life" by Sinclair Ferguson, led by Susan Smith.
14. **Ladies and Young Ladies,** please save the date and join us at a celebration luncheon on **Sunday, December 4th, 2022, at 1:30 pm** at the home of Steve and Liz Withers (2111 Tiburon Way, Carrollton 75006) honoring the adoption of Kailee by Neiman & Deborah Miller. We'll have finger sandwiches, salads, cake & other delights. If you would like to help with the food, please reach out to Grace Laird, Susan Smith, or Liz Withers.
15. **MPC Christmas Pageant:** Our annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 11th at 4:30 pm. The kids who attend Sunday school have been busy learning songs. If you have a child/youth who does not attend Sunday school that would like to participate or a toddler/preschooler that would like to be a sheep in our flock, please contact Gwen Sterenberg or Grace Laird. Sheep do not need to attend rehearsals, but a head count would be great. Rehearsals will take place immediately following worship on November 20th and December 4th. We will also have a dress rehearsal before the program on December 11th at 3 pm.
16. **MPC Christmas Party:** Immediately following the Pageant on Sunday afternoon, December 11th, MPC will have our annual Christmas Party with fellowship and seasonal refreshments in the Lobby.

News & Needs

17. **Life Change** for the month of **November** will help replenish our Assistance Fund. The Assistance Fund allows us to help those who need assistance with food, utility bills, gas, etc. throughout the year.
18. **The Advent season is almost here!** If you are interested in singing in a small choir to lead MPC in song during the Advent season, please email Colin (colin@metrocrestchurch.org). Previous choir experience is not required - all that's needed is a love of singing and a willingness to be at the church for 8am rehearsals on Sundays.
19. **MPC Officer Training Recommendations.** All communing members of Metrocrest may recommend qualified candidates for church office (Elder or Deacon), who will be invited to participate in the church's year-long officer training program which begins in January. Forms are available in the Lobby. The deadline for recommendations is Wednesday, November 30.
20. **Mission Trip:** Our mission trip to the Bahamas is coming together! If you're interested in more information, please see Realm or call the church office.

High Fives & Thanks

21. **Last Sunday's Refreshments:** We are very grateful for the Fellowship Team and everyone who pitched in last Sunday to help serve refreshments in honor of Kathleen Barclay, who is moving to Austin.

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: \$12,389

Projected Giving to Date: \$204,900

Actual Giving to Date: \$167,844

Difference to date + or - (- \$37,056)

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$532,738, our weekly offering should meet or exceed \$10,245. Our budget fiscal year is July 2022 - June 2023. For stewardship assistance, you may contact the Treasurer 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
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

Pastor
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The Session (Elders)

Bill Camp
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas
Will Grover
Justin Sterenberg
Josh Wyman