



**METROCREST**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**The King  
& His  
Kingdom**

**Morning Worship  
Thanksgiving Sunday  
Last Sunday of Pentecost  
November 26, 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

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## Call to Worship - Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Unison: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**

Leader: Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**Unison: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Leader: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

# We Respond To God's Call

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## Opening Hymn - "O Lord, by Grace Delivered"

Trinity Hymnal #626

O Lord, by grace delivered,  
I now with songs extol;  
My foes You have not suffered  
To glory o'er my fall.  
O Lord, my God, I sought You,  
And You did heal and save;  
You, Lord, from death did ransom  
And keep me from the grave.

His holy name remember;  
You saints, Jehovah praise;  
His anger lasts a moment,  
His favor all our days;  
For sorrow, like a pilgrim,  
May tarry for a night;  
But joy the heart will gladden  
When dawns the morning light.

In prosp'rous days I boasted:  
Unmoved I shall remain;  
For, Lord, by Your good favor  
My cause You did maintain.  
I soon was sorely troubled,  
For You did hide Your face;  
I cried to You, Jehovah;  
I sought Jehovah's grace.

What profit if I perish,  
If life You do not spare?  
Shall dust repeat Your praises,  
Shall it Your truth declare?  
O Lord, on me have mercy,  
And my petition hear;  
That You may be my helper,  
In mercy, Lord, appear.

My grief is turned to gladness,  
To You my thanks I raise,  
Who have removed my sorrow  
And girded me with praise;  
And now, no longer silent,  
My heart Your praise will sing;  
O Lord, my God, forever  
My thanks to You I bring.

### **Acknowledging God's Presence**

#### **Worship Theme - "Thanks for the King's Sword & the King's Reward"**

##### **Theme Verses - Matthew 10:34 and 42**

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. . . Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

##### **Hymn - "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!

# We Confess Our Sins

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## **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 - "There Is a Redeemer"**

There is a Redeemer:  
Jesus, God's Own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

### **(Refrain)**

Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son  
And leaving Your Spirit till  
The work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain. **(Refrain)**

When I stand in glory,  
I will see His face.  
Then I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place. **(Refrain)**

# We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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## **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 - "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)**

## 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

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all His gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

**Unison: It is right for us to thank God.**

Leader: For the beauty and wonder of Your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Your Son,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our church family here at Metrocrest,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**Unison: We thank You, Lord.**

Leader: Above all, sovereign Father, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Your Son Christ Jesus our Lord; To Him be praise and glory, with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## We Receive God's Word

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### Reading God's Word - Matthew 10:34-42

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

### Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Thanks for the King's Sword & the King's Reward"**

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

# We Respond To God's Grace

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## **Closing Hymn - "Now Thank We All Our God"**

Trinity Hymnal #98

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In Whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven —  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

# God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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## **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.

"O Lord, by Grace Delivered" Music arr. by Arthur S. Sullivan. "Let All Things Now Living"  
Words and music by Katherine K. Davis – © E.C. Schirmer Music Co. "There Is a Redeemer"  
Words and music by Melody Green – © 1982 Universal Music, Birdwing Music. All rights  
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Our God" Words by Martin Rinkart, 1636. tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858, Music by Johann  
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# Sermon Text

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## English Standard Version - Matthew 10:34-42

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 "Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

## New International Version - Matthew 10:34-42

34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

        'a man against his father,  
        a daughter against her mother,  
        a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
36        a man's enemies will be the members of his own  
        household.'

37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.

40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes Me, and anyone who welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is My disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."



# Sermon Notes

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**Matthew 10:34-42**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Thanks for the King's Sword & the King's Reward"**

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - November 26, 2023

1. **Last Sunday of Pentecost:** Pentecost has been a season focused on discipleship in the Gospel of Matthew. Next Sunday, as we begin the season of Advent, we are set to turn to Christian stewardship in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.
2. **Happy Thanksgiving:** As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God for His countless blessings, chiefly for His greatest gift to us in His Son Jesus Christ.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is James Woods. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Will Grover.
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 Sunday. Enjoy Thanksgiving weekend with your family. We'll see you next week!

## 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 The Five Solas.
7. **Interested in auditioning for the MPC Advent Choir?** Join Nick Rhodes and Caleb Esmond on the sanctuary stage directly after today's service. We will hear you sing a song of your choice in addition to a simple written sight-singing passage.
8. **Men's Book Group:** The Men's Group is taking a short break! For info on our next book study, please contact Paul Hartgrove (paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).
9. **Church Prayer Meeting:** The weekly Prayer Meeting will take a break over the holidays. Watch for details when we reschedule.
10. **Christmas Recital:** Our pianist, Caleb Esmond, will be hosting a recital next Saturday, December 2, at 4:00pm, featuring musicians from the University of North Texas, two of whom attend Metrocrest. There will be works by Schubert, Debussy, and more. Everyone at MPC is welcome to attend and to bring guests, all free of charge.
11. **Baby Shower:** Women of Metrocrest are cordially invited to a shower for Madeleine Esmond next Saturday, December 2, at 11:00am at the home of Diane Kizziar (4576 Saint Samons Street, Carrollton, TX 75010).

12. **MPC Finance Review:** Please join us for a review of the church's financial situation, right after service next Sunday, December 3.
13. **Christmas at MPC:** Please make note of upcoming holiday services:
  - **Christmas Pageant & Party** - Sunday, December 10, 4:30pm
  - **Christmas Eve** - Sunday, December 24, 10:15am, 6:00pm
  - **Christmas Day** - Monday, December 25 - No Service

## News & Needs

14. **MPC Officer Training Recommendations:** All communing members of Metrocrest may recommend qualified candidates for church office (Elder or Deacon). Forms, which are available in the Lobby, must be submitted by this Thursday, November 30.

## High Fives & Thanks

15. **Advent & Christmas Decorations:** Big thanks to Daniel & Hope Greisser and Will & Liz Grover, for decorating the church for the holidays.

## Prayer Requests

16. **For The World:**
  - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
17. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Hearts of Gratitude** - For God to make us aware of His mercies and to give us ever deepening thankfulness.
  - **Upcoming Holiday Activities:** For God's blessing on the Christmas Recital, the Christmas Pageant & Party, the Advent services, and the Men's & Women's events, that MPC will grow in Christian fellowship and mission faithfulness.
  - **Church Finances** - For God's gracious provision.
18. **For One Another:**
  - **Families:** For God's blessing on husbands, wives, kids, grandkids, etc, especially during the stressful holidays.
  - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Larry Bounds (Paul Hartgrove's friend), Steve Collinsworth, Krystal Hays (Bill & Shona Camp's neighbor), Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ashley Marble, Jeannie Marion (Mike Marion's stepmother), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Larry Perry, Ron Revell, Laura Stein (Sharon Greisser's niece), David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on 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 several months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$7,185; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$136,868; and our projected giving to-date - \$165,557. 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](mailto:info@metrocrestchurch.org)!

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**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