



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship
Last Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024**

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 32:1-2

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Unison: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

Trinity Hymnal #465

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

(Refrain)

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the Refuge, the mighty cross. **(Refrain)**

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today. **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "Jesus Teaches the Parable of the Sower"

Theme Verses - Matthew 13:3-9

[Jesus] told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and

produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

Hymn - "Comes Now the Spring of Repentance"

Tune: Dundee

Comes now the spring of repentance,
Time now to heed God's word;
The seed is sown, the Sower calls,
His sovereign voice is heard.

The loving Sower sowed with blood
And died the seed might live,
To bring a harvest hundred-fold,
To teach, convict, forgive.

And whether harvest great or small
Within us bears its fruit,
The Sower never fails His part
And tends each tender shoot.

So open, Lord, our ears and eyes,
Our dull and stubborn hearts;
Bless now the sod, the seed, the fruit—
All gifts Your grace imparts.

Draw near this Lenten season, Lord;
Cause us to think and pray;
Make this the time we turn towards You
Who never turn away.

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against Your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us, O Lord: spare all those who confess their faults, and restore all those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon - Romans 8:1-3a

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.

Hymn - "He Will Hold Me Fast"

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Refrain)

He will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight; Christ will hold me fast.
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last.
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. **(Refrain)**

For my life He bled and died; Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life; He will hold me fast.
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last. **(Refrain)**

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

Please greet those around you in Christ's name.

Hymn - "Christ the True and Better"

Christ, the true and better Adam;
Son of God and Son of man.
Who, when tempted in the garden,
Never yielded, never sinned.
He, who makes the many righteous
Brings us back to life again.
Dying, He reversed the curse;
Then rising, crushed the serpent's head.

Christ, the true and better Isaac;
Humble Son of sacrifice,
Who would climb the fearful mountain,
There to offer up His life.
Laid with faith upon the altar,
Father's joy and only Son;
There salvation was provided,
Oh, what full and boundless love.

(Refrain)

Amen! Amen!
From beginning to end.
Christ, the story; His, the glory.
Alleluia! Amen!

Christ, the true and better Moses;
Called to lead a people home.
Standing bold to earthly powers,
God's great glory to be known.
With his arms stretched wide to heaven,
See the waters part in two.
See the veil is torn forever,
Cleansed with blood, we pass now through. **(Refrain)**

Christ, the true and better David;
Lowly shepherd, mighty King.
He, the champion in the battle,
Where, O death is now thy sting?
In our place, He bled and conquered,
Crown Him Lord of majesty.
His shall be the throne forever,
We shall e'er His people be. **(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

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 13:1-23

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Intern Colton Huckaby

"Jesus Teaches the Parable of the Sower"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Offertory Sentence - Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Christ let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess His Name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Closing Hymn - "Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord,
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin,
In each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.

Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

"Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord" Words by Julia H. Johnston, music by Daniel B. Towner. **"Comes Now the Spring of Repentance"** Words by Bill Lovell, music from Scottish Psalter, 1615. **"He Will Hold Me Fast"** Words and music by Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker – © 2013 Getty Music Publishing, Matthew Merker Music. All rights reserved. **"Christ the True and Better"** © 2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns. **"Holy Spirit"** Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Copyright © 2005, Thankyou Music. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 13:1-23

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And He told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear."

10 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 And He answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

"You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Sermon Notes

Matthew 13:1-23

Intern Colton Huckaby

"Jesus Teaches the Parable of the Sower"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

Church Life Notes

Today - March 17, 2024

1. **Last Sunday of Lent:** Today is the last Sunday of Lent 2024. As part of our seasonal observance, you are encouraged to take a copy of this year's Lenten Advisory available in the Lobby. Looking ahead, Maundy Thursday is March 28, Good Friday is March 29, and Easter Sunday is March 31. (Also, we wish you Happy St. Patrick's Day!)
2. **Lenten Safety Review:** Please make notice of MPC's emergency evacuation plan and the location of the church's AED equipment.
3. **Life Change Sunday:** Today's special Life Change Collection will support Will Stockdale, serving with Ministry to State, the PCA's ministry to government leaders, staffers and interns in Washington, DC.
4. **Serving Today:** Our preacher this morning is Colton Huckaby, MPC's ministry intern, who is preaching his inaugural sermon. Our scheduled Liturgy Leader is Paul Hartgrove. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Pastor Bill Lovell.
5. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
6. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for middle and high school youth will meet from 6:00-8:00pm 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 5:15pm.
7. **MPC's South Carrollton Care Group** is hosting an open house/social tonight at 6:15pm at the home of Steve and Liz Withers (2111 Tiburon, Carrollton, TX 75006). Come meet our group and learn more about our next study, "A Time for Confidence" by Stephen Nichols. RSVP to Hope Greisser at hope.greisser@gmail.com or Liz Withers at (214) 236-9616.

Upcoming Activities & Events

8. **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** - Highly interactive study of "The Gospel According to Isaiah"—led by Will Grover.
9. **Women's Bible Study:** MPC's Women's Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Tuesday nights at the church to study 1 and 2 Kings. Connection via Zoom is available. Call or email Melodie Bajema to register and receive the study book (214-669-7135 or rbajema5@sbcglobal.net).

10. **Men's Book Group:** Interested men meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm the church to study Jimmy Davis' *Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life*. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
11. **Save the Date:** On Saturday, April 13, at 10:00am, all women and young ladies (4th grade and up) are invited to join us for a Spring Tea hosted by our Women's Ministry here at the church. More details to follow!

News & Needs

12. **Sexual Harassment Policy:** Our Session recently adopted a policy designed to keep Metrocrest free of sexual harassment. Copies of the policy are available in the Lobby. If you are harassed at church, contact Diane Kizziar (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Session Life:** In January, Ruling Elder Rick Carruth was elected to the Session. Due to job concerns, Rick recently resigned, and the Session accepted his resignation, effective Friday, March 15.
14. **Lenten Forum:** Thanks to everyone who participated in yesterday's Lenten Forum, "Loving Preparation," with Attorney Mark Sutherland.

Prayer Requests

15. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
16. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Safety:** For God to protect our church and keep us safe and harassment free.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's generous provision.
17. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Max Kizziar, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Marcia Livingston (David Wamsley's sister), Ruth Lerner (Elinor Hites' sister), Ariel Lopez, Ashley Marble, Alana Marion, Jeannie Marion (Mike Marion's stepmom), Mike Marion, Tom Mayfield, Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Carol Revell, Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on expectant couples, Dorian and Joseph Marble and Rachelle and Ben Fant.
 - **Other Issues** - For God's blessing on Colton and Maurane Huckaby, who are sorting out immigration questions.

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.



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 this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$9,125; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$264,488; and projected giving to-date - \$291,731. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



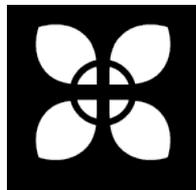
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org!

The Session (Elders)

Rick Bajema
Bill Camp
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Bill Lovell
Larry Perry
James Woods

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas
Vianny D'Souza
Will Grover
Brian Ray



Bill Lovell
Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble
Paul Hartgrove
Diane Kizziar

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director
Safeguarding Committee
Safeguarding Committee

bill@metrocrestchurch.org
laura@metrocrestchurch.org
nick@metrocrestchurch.org
treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org
joseph@metrocrestchurch.org
paul.hartgrove@gmail.com
dianekizziar@gmail.com