



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**The King  
& His  
Kingdom**

**Holy Communion  
Second Sunday of Epiphany  
January 14, 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

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## Welcome

## Announcements

### Call to Worship - Psalm 50:1-6

Leader: The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Unison: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

**Unison: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people:**

Leader: "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"

**Unison: The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!**

## We Respond To God's Call

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### Opening Hymn - "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Trinity Hymnal #295

Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;  
Behold His hands and side;  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.

*A Cristo coronad,  
Señor de vida y luz;  
Con alabanzas proclamad  
Los triunfos de la cruz;*

*A él solo adorad,  
Señor de salvación;  
Llor eterno tributad  
De todo corazón.*

Crown Him the Lord Most High,  
Who calls all to repent,  
Deny Him not and heed love's cry,  
To wayward sinners sent.  
His grace, it knows no bounds,  
His Father's mercy too;  
To woeful men His call resounds,  
God's saving work to do.

Crown Him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime:  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity.

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

### **Worship Theme - "Jesus, Judgment, Repentance, and Mission"**

#### **Theme Verse - Matthew 11:20**

[Jesus] began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

#### **Hymn - "O Son of God, in Glory Crowned"**

Tune: Trinity Hymnal #441

O Son of God, in glory crowned,  
The Judge ordained of quick and dead!  
O Son of Man, so pitying found  
For all the tears Thy people shed!

Be with us in this darkened place,  
This weary, restless, dangerous night;  
And teach, O teach us, by Thy grace,  
To struggle onward into light!

And since, in God's recording book,  
Our sins are written, every one,  
The crime, the wrath, the wandering look  
The good we knew, and left undone.

Lord, ere the last dread trump be heard,  
And ere before Thy face we stand,  
Look Thou on each accusing word,  
And blot it with Thy bleeding hand.

And by the love that brought Thee here,  
And by the cross, and by the grave,  
Give perfect love for conscious fear,  
And in the day of judgment save.

## We Confess Our Sins

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### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father, we confess to You our manifold sins. Because You are holy and cannot look at wrong, we ask for forgiveness, not on the basis of anything we have done, but on the basis of Your Son's perfect obedience. In love, He has called us to Himself and washed us in His Own sinless blood. Have mercy on us, Father, and renew us, we pray, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ and filled with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.*

#### **Assurance of Pardon - Psalm 103:8-12**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Amen.

#### **Hymn - "Jesus, I Come"**

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,  
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,

Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of earth's sorrows, into Thy balm,  
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
Out of distress, into jubilant psalm,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into Thy blessed will to abide,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
Out of despair into raptures above,  
Upward forever on wings like a dove,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the joy and light of Thy home,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

## We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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### **Affirmation of Faith - Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father. By Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Greeting**

*Please greet those around you in Christ's name.*

## **Hymn - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

Trinity Hymnal #252

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## **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**

### **Prayer for God's Blessing on MPC's Care Groups**

Sovereign Father, as we begin a new year at Metrocrest, we pray for Your blessing on all our church's Care Groups, and on the new groups currently being formed. May they grow in number and in spiritual maturity. May all of us who participate in them grow in Christ, deepen our understanding of His word, and experience, by Your Spirit, loving care from our brothers and sisters, and from You. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

## We Receive God's Word

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### Reading God's Word - Matthew 11:20-24

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

### Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Jesus, Judgment, Repentance, and Mission"**

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

## We Commune At God's Table

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### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**Unison: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**Unison: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Unison: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Unison: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory to You, O Lord, most high.**

### Words of Institution

### Holy Communion

*Please come forward as directed to receive the elements, and wait to consume them until all have been served. Please dispose of used cups in the receptacles as you leave.*

### Prayer after Holy Communion

## We Respond To God's Grace

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**Offertory Sentence - 2 Corinthians 9:7**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Closing Hymn - "For the Cause"**

For the cause of Christ the King,  
We give our lives, an offering  
'Til all the earth resounds  
With ceaseless praise to the Son.

For the cause of Christ we go  
With joy to reap, with faith to sow,  
As many see and many  
Put their trust in the Son.

**(Refrain)**

Christ we proclaim,  
The Name above every name:  
For all creation, ev'ry nation,  
God's salvation through the Son!

For the King once lifted high  
To cries of rage, of "crucify!"  
Endured the cross as every  
Sin was laid on the Son.

To the King who conquered death,  
To free the poor and the oppressed  
For lasting peace, for life  
And liberty in the Son. **(Refrain)**

Let it be my life's refrain:  
To live is Christ, to die is gain;  
Deny myself, take up my cross  
And follow the Son. **(Refrain)**

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing



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## **Blessing - 2 Corinthians 13:11,14**

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full reconciliation, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**"Crown Him with Many Crowns"** Words by Matthew Bridges, Adapted, Music by George J. Elvey, Spanish translation by E.A. Strange. **"O Son of God, in Glory Crowned"** Words by Cecil F. Alexander, music by Ignaz J. Pleyel. **"Jesus, I Come"** Words by John H. Sammis, music by Daniel B. Towner. **"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"** Words by Isaac Watts, Music arr. By Lowell Mason. **"For the Cause"** 2016 © Getty Music Publishing and Townend Songs. CCLI License #451603.

# Sermon Text with Map

## English Standard Version - Matthew 11:20-24

20 Then [Jesus] began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."



Map from ccel.org

# Sermon Notes

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## **Matthew 11:20-24**

Pastor Bill Lovell

### **"Jesus, Judgment, Repentance, and Mission"**

**Jesus**

**Judgment**

**Repentance**

**Mission**

*"Let your message of judgment be mingled with tears... We mingle our own pronouncements of judgment with things all the time, but it's rarely tears. No—when we judge, our judgment is mingled with self-congratulations, self-justification, and self-advancement." Michael Kelly*

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - January 14, 2024

1. **Second Sunday of Epiphany:** The season of Epiphany gets its name from a Greek word which means *manifestation*, referring specifically to the manifestation of the gospel to the Gentiles. Traditionally Epiphany has an emphasis on cross-cultural mission.
2. **Holy Communion:** We will share the Lord's Supper this morning. The Table is open to all who know and worship the Lord Jesus and are in communion with His church.
3. **Care Group Sunday:** Today we are highlighting MPC's small group Bible studies, which we call Care Groups. If you are in a Care Group, please sit with your fellow Group members.
4. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Jay Marble. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Will Grover.
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.

## 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** - Starting next Sunday, January 7 - "The Gospel According to Isaiah"—led by Will Grover.
8. **Annual Congregational Meeting:** We are set to meet on Sunday, January 28, following the 10:15am service, to elect new officers and reflect on God's faithfulness to us. See announcement 9.

## News & Needs

9. **Officer Nominations:** Nominees for Session are Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, and James Woods. Nominees for Board of Deacons are Vianny D'Souza and Brian Ray. The nominee for Board of Trustees is Steve Withers. Our 2024 Officer Elections Guide is available in the Lobby.
10. **Life Change** for January will support Human Coalition, one of the largest pro-life, pro-women, and pro-family organizations in the

country. They are committed to making abortion unthinkable and unnecessary by helping lead a movement that values human dignity and establishes a culture of life. The Life Change basket will be in the back of the sanctuary this week. If you prefer, you can write a check with "Life Change" written in the memo line, or you can give online via Realm.

11. **Men's Book Group:** Beginning January 23, interested men will meet on **Tuesday evenings at the church** to study Jimmy Davis' ***Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life***. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
12. **Prayer Ministry:** Help us keep our prayer requests current by letting us know **via email** when you want to remove or revise your requests on Realm and on the list in the Sunday bulletin.

### High Fives & Thanks

13. **Welcome, Eric Rau:** Please greet MPC's newest communing member, Eric Rau, a Junior at UNT.

### Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
  - **World Leaders** - For God's gift of wisdom for President Biden and "all who are in positions of authority" (1 Timothy 2:1).
  - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Repentance** - For God to give each of us grace to repent and to share the gospel with compassion and love.
  - **Church Elections** - For God's direction and blessing.
  - **Church Finances** - For God's gracious provision.
16. **For One Another:**
  - **Marriages** - For God's blessing on all those who are married.
  - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, Kathy Carruth (Rick Carruth's mom), Steve Collinworth, Krystal Hays (Bill & Shona Camp's neighbor), 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, Lauren Muckleroy (friend of Scott Marrs), Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Larry Perry, Ron Revell, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on expectant mom Madeleine Esmond, whose baby girl is due this month.

# MPC Care Groups

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## Introduction

*Happy Care Group Sunday! Care Groups are MPC's accountability groups, fellowship groups, mission groups, support groups, and small group Bible studies—all rolled into one! We extend sincere thanks to all group leaders, hosts, and participants, who, together, seek to grow as Christian disciples and to share God's love with others!*

*Are you interested in joining one of MPC's Care Groups? For the basics, see Care Groups listed below, with Details as of 1/10/24. For more information, get in touch with MPC Care Group Coordinator Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).*

## Care Groups - As of 1/10/24

### 1. **South Carrollton Care Group**

- When: Sundays at 6:15pm, approx. 1st and 3rd Sunday  
Where: Daniel & Hope Greisser's, 2615 Daybreak Dr, Dallas  
What: Currently studying Ligonier Ministries video series "The Basics of the Christian Life" by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson. We should finish our current video series sometime this spring. We are interested in doing another video series after that with topic still TBD.  
Who: 10 members, with space for 5 more
- Daniel & Hope Greisser, Hosts
  - Steve & Liz Withers
  - Brian Ray
  - Mike & Alana Marion
  - Neiman & Deborah Miller (with Kaylee)

### 2. **Flower Mound Care Group**

- When: Thursdays at 7:00pm, Weekly  
Where: Paul & Judy Hartgrove's, 4332 Southampton Ct, Flower Mound  
What: AKA "The Gospel Outpost" - Currently studying *Keep in Step with the Spirit* by J I Packer  
Who: 13 members, maxed out
- Paul & Judy Hartgrove, Hosts
  - Steve & Kathy Collinsworth
  - Bill and Shona Camp
  - Cherry Leslie
  - Tom & DeAnn Owen
  - Ruth & John Orr
  - James & Karen Woods
  - David & Marlene Wamsley (as able)

3. **College and Career Care Group**

When: Fridays at 7:00pm, Approximately 1st and 3rd Friday

Where: Church

What: Member testimonies

Who: 6-12 Members, with unlimited open spaces

- Camma & Justus Smith
- Vianny D'Souza
- Jessie Camp
- Bella Harris
- Emily & Haniel Cuevas
- June & Hayden Bernays
- Daniel Abood
- Kevin Shurtz

4. **Zoom Care Group**

When: Thursdays at 7:00pm, Weekly

Where: Via Zoom

What: Typically use Ligonier material. Currently we are studying "The Lord's Prayer" (Sproul). We should complete this study by the end of February.

Who: 7 members, with space for 7 more

- Larry & Ellen Perry, Hosts
- Nick & Raquel Rhodes
- Pradip & Rani Patel
- Joseph Munoz

5. **Men's Care Group**

When: Thursdays at 7:00pm, Weekly

Where: Church

What: Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life

Who: TBD, with space for 15

6. **North Carrollton Care Group - **In Formation****

When: TBD

Where: Max & Dianne Kizziar's, 4576 Saint Samons St, Carrollton

What: TBD

Who: TBD, with space for 14

7. **Lewisville Care Group - **In Formation****

When: TBD

Where: Rick & Melodie Bajema's, 1089 W Corporate Dr, Lewisville

What: TBD

Who: TBD, with space for 14

8. **Tools for Ministry Care Group - **Coming Soon****

When: Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Weekly

Where: Church

What: Colossians

Who: Colton Huckaby and TBD, with space for 13 more

**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 six months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$6,597; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$199,173; and our projected giving to-date - \$220,669. 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