



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship  
Third Sunday of Epiphany  
January 21, 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

## Presentation by The Human Coalition

### Call to Worship - Psalm 34:1-3,22

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**Unison: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

**Unison: The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

# We Respond To God's Call

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## Opening Hymn - "Lord of Life"

Lord of life, Whose hand has made us,  
Formed us each with tender care.  
You have crowned us with Your image,  
Not intending such despair.  
Yet through sin the glory faded,  
Death and doom came in its place.  
But in spite of our condition,  
We've been rescued by Your grace!

God so loved the world, He gave us  
Jesus Christ to bear our sin.  
On the cross His life He offered,  
That we might be His again.  
And the Holy Spirit calls us  
By the gospel's joyful ring,  
Making us His own dear children  
Us, eternal life to bring.

Lord of life, Who rose in triumph,  
Conqu'ring death and giving hope,  
You have called us and equipped us,  
In a sinful world to cope.  
Teaching us to love each other,  
To befriend and help in strife;

To forgive and seek to comfort,  
And preserve the gift of life.

Help us, Lord, to see as You do,  
Life is precious in each stage,  
From the unborn to the feeble,  
Life is precious in each age.  
Help us, Lord, to be Your witness  
And to show the world we care,  
So that people may not perish  
But, instead, Your life may share.

## **Acknowledging God's Presence**

### **Worship Theme - "Rest for the Weary"**

#### **Theme Verse - Matthew 11:28**

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

#### **Hymn - "Gentle and Lowly"**

Bound by the tempter's power,  
Sinking down hour by hour  
Under the wound and weight of sin,  
There did I hear Your grace  
Gently my soul embrace –  
Jesus my freedom enters in.

Heavy as guilt began,  
Grace by the Father's plan  
All of my burdens set aside.  
Shoulders of strength before  
Years of temptation bore  
All of my weakness, all my pride.

#### **(Refrain)**

I lose my burdens, lay down my weights –  
My gentle Savior my burden takes.  
The lowly Shepherd lifts up my face.  
My soul finds rest, no more oppressed,  
Redeemed by grace.

Humble my Savior died –  
Riven, His sinless side  
Bled for the ransom I required.  
Never He raised His voice –  
Loss was His plan, His choice,  
Gift for the bride His love desired. **(Refrain)**

Praise to the One  
Who has carried my sorrows,  
Who has suffered my shame,  
Who was nailed to my cross.  
Praise to the One  
Who has gone down before me  
To be raised up in glory,  
Who invited the cost. **(Refrain)**

## 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 - "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Trinity Hymnal #501

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,

Fightings and fears, within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*Tal como soy, tu compasión  
vencido ha toda oposición;  
ya pertenezco sólo a ti;  
Cordero de Dios, heme aquí.*

## 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**

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

### **Hymn - "Come, Ye Sinners "**

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity joined with power.  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more;  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more.

Come, ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy;  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call;  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam;  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The incarnate God, ascended,  
Pleads the merit of His blood;  
Venture on Him, venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good;  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

### **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 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

Sovereign Father, on this 40th Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we at Metrocrest join our prayers with brothers and sisters all across our nation in acknowledging the holiness of every human life. You have

created us in Your own image, Father, and endowed each of us with incalculable value. May this acknowledgement stir us to fight diligently for the protection of every living human being, including the unborn, the aged, the disabled, and the infirm, and to seek just as diligently to care in every way we can for those facing these challenges. Above all, Father, may we point everyone towards Him Who gave His life for ours. Amen.

## We Receive God's Word

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### **Reading God's Word - Matthew 11:25-30**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Understanding and Applying God's Word**

Ruling Elder Bill Camp

**"Rest for the Weary"**

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

## 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 - "All to Jesus I Surrender"**

Trinity Hymnal #562

All to Jesus I surrender;  
All to Him I freely give.  
May I ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

#### **(Refrain)**

I surrender all.  
I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Humbly at His feet I bow.  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me, Jesus, take me now. **(Refrain)**

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine.  
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me,  
May I know Thy pow'r divine. **(Refrain)**

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Lord, I give myself to Thee.  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me. **(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.

**"Lord of Life"** Permission given by Christian Life Resources. **"Gentle and Lowly"** Words and Music by Colin Deay – © 2022 Colin Deay. **"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"** Words by Charlotte Elliott, music by William B. Bradbury, Spanish translation by Tomás M. Westrup. **"Come, Ye Sinners"** Words by Joseph Hart, Music arr. LW Brodine. **"All to Jesus I Surrender"** Words by Judson W. VanDeVenter, Music by Winfield Scott Weeden. CCLI License #451603.

# Sermon Text

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## **English Standard Version - Matthew 11:25-30**

25 At that time Jesus declared, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. 28 Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

# Sermon Notes

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## **Matthew 11:25-30**

Ruling Elder Bill Camp

### **"Rest for the Weary"**

#### **1. The Father's Sovereign Choice**

#### **2. The Son's Sovereign Rule**

#### **3. A Call to Rest**

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - January 21, 2024

1. **Third 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. **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday:** Since 1984, Americans have kept the Sunday nearest to January 22 as a day to remember that, to God, all human life is sacred, including the unborn, the disabled, the infirm, and the elderly. This morning, to mark the occasion, we welcome representatives from our mission partner, The Human Coalition.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Paul Hartgrove. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is James Woods. Ruling Elder Bill Camp is preaching while Pastor Bill Lovell is out of town, visiting his mentor and friend, Dick Lucas.
4. **Life Change Sunday:** This month's Life Change collection will go to support the work of The Human Coalition. Please come forward during the Offertory to place your special donation in the basket.
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 next Sunday, January 28, following the 10:15am service, to elect new officers and reflect on God's faithfulness to us.

## 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. **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).
11. **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

12. **All Nominees for Church Office:** Huge thanks to those willing to serve as officers at Metrocrest, including Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, James Woods, Vianny D'Souza, Brian Ray, and Steve Withers!

## Prayer Requests

13. **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.
14. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Repentance** - For God to give each of us grace to repent and come to His Son and to share His gospel with compassion and love.
  - **Church Elections** - For God's direction and blessing.
  - **Church Finances** - For God's gracious provision.
15. **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), Carol Revell, John 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.

**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 - \$5,206; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$204,379; and our projected giving to-date - \$228,654. 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**  
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**Will Grover**  
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**The Session (Elders)**  
John Fowler  
Paul Hartgrove  
Larry Perry

**The Board of Deacons**  
Dalton Dallas  
Will Grover