



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King and His Kingdom

First Sunday of Lent
February 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

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship from Psalm 47:6-9

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Unison: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Leader: For God is the King of all the earth;

Unison: Sing praises with a psalm!

Leader: God reigns over the nations;

Unison: God sits on His holy throne.

Leader: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

Unison: For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Man of Sorrows”

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God,
By His own betrayed –
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid.

Silent as He stood accused,
Beaten, mocked, and scorned –
Bowing to the Father’s will,
He took a crown of thorns.

(Refrain)

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me –
Now my soul cries out, “Hallelujah!
Praise and honor unto Thee.”

Sent of heaven, God’s own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree. **(Refrain)**

Now my debt is paid, it is paid in full
By the precious blood that my Jesus spilled.
Now the curse of sin has no hold on me.
Whom the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. **(Refrain)**

See, the stone is rolled away –
Behold the empty tomb.
Hallelujah, God be praised,
He's risen from the grave. **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

The Law's Requirements Fulfilled

Theme Verses

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, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Trinity Hymnal #32

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Heavenly Father, we confess that we dishonor You by our words, thoughts, and deeds. Depending on our own strength we

stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, that You forgive our many sins: cleanse the darkness from our lives and turn our faces towards You.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on 1 Peter 2:24

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. 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.**

Greeting

“Psalm 63 – Better than Life”

O God, You're my God, I seek You;
O my soul it longs for You.
My flesh faints for You in this land,
This dry land where there is no drink.
I've looked upon You in this place,
Beholding Your power and glory, Lord.

Because Your love is better than life is,
I will praise You as long as I'm alive;
And in the face of precious Jesus,
O my soul will be satisfied.

You have been my help;
In the shadow of Your wings
I'll sing for joy.
You have been my help;
In the shadow of Your wings
I'll sing; I'll sing!

We Profess Our Faith

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 9-11

Leader: But does not God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man cannot do?

Unison: **No, for God so created man that he was able to do it. But man, at the instigation of the devil, in deliberate disobedience robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.**

Leader: Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?

Unison: **Certainly not. He is terribly angry with our original sin as well as our actual sins. Therefore, He will punish them by a just judgment both now and eternally, as He has declared: *Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the law.***

Leader: But is God not also merciful?

Unison: God is indeed merciful, but He is also just. His justice requires that sin committed against the most high majesty of God also be punished with the most severe, that is, with everlasting, punishment of body and soul.

“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.

Prayer of Intercession - MPC Deacon - Josh Wyman

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 5:17-20

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"Upheld and Fulfilled"

Sermon Series: "The King and His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Giving to Support Gospel Ministry

"O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze it's day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain;
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing Blessing

Postlude and Meditation

“Man of Sorrows” Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood and Matt Crocker – © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. All rights reserved. **“Great is Thy Faithfulness”** Words by Thomas O. Chisholm, music by William M. Runyan – © 1923, renewal 1951, Hope Publishing Co., all rights reserved. **“Better than Life”** Words and music by Shane Barnard – © 2015 Songs from Wellhouse. All rights reserved. **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”** Words by Isaac Watts, Music arr. By Lowell Mason. **“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”** Words by George Matheson Music by Chris Miner. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Message - Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ “Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won’t know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

Greek New Testament - Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλῦσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφῆτας: οὐκ ἦλθον καταλῦσαι ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι. ¹⁸ ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἕως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἓν ἢ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου ἕως ἂν πάντα γένηται. ¹⁹ ὃς ἐὰν οὖν λύσῃ μίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων καὶ διδάξῃ οὕτως τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἐλάχιστος κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν: ὃς δ’ ἂν ποιήσῃ καὶ διδάξῃ, οὗτος μέγας κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν. ²⁰ λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐὰν μὴ περισσεύσῃ ὑμῶν ἡ δικαιοσύνη πλεῖον τῶν γραμματέων καὶ Φαρισαίων, οὐ μὴ εἰσέλθητε εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 5:17-20

Pastor Bill Lovell

“Upheld and Fulfilled”

In Christ, the Law is Upheld

In Christ, the Law is Fulfilled

Church Life Notes

Today

1. **Have a Blessed Lent!** Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Over the next forty days, we will join Christians around the world who will be reflecting on a number of things we don't generally like to think about: sin, death, and our own mortality. In this season of repentance, please pray that each of us will be blessed with a better understanding of the reality of sin and death—and a deeper appreciation for the glorious gospel of Him who has overcome it all!
2. **Annual Lenten Advisory:** Each Lent, MPC distributes a series of important reminders. Please pick up your copy today in the Lobby.
3. **Welcome to Our Guests!** We are excited you are here. Members of the Welcome Team will be looking for you to say hi.
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:** MPC offers an opportunity each week to pray for individual and corporate needs. Watch for details.
6. **Tools for Bible Study:** Intern Colton Huckaby is leading a new program to introduce interested church members to tools that will help them lead Bible study in Care Group and other discipleship settings.
7. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6-8 pm 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 5:15 pm. If you have questions, please reach out to our Youth Group Coordinator, Joseph Marble (joseph@metrocrestchurch.org).

Upcoming Activities & Events

8. **Lenten Forum I: "Why Everybody Needs a Will":** Please join us at the church next Saturday, March 4, at 9 AM for a fellowship breakfast followed by a time to reflect on the importance of preparing a will, presented by Mark Sutherland, a local Christian attorney who specializes in estate planning.
9. **Plans for Women's Ministry at MPC:** MPC is deeply committed to ministering to the women of our church. We're currently undergoing a time of transition. As we explore long-term options, please pray for the Session to have wisdom and discernment. Women who are interested in helping are encouraged to speak to Pastor Bill Lovell or to one of the Elders.
10. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth plan to meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 9 am until the end of the term.
11. **Adult Sunday School:** Adults meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 9 am until otherwise announced. Ruling Elder James Woods is leading a study of the Gospel of Mark.

12. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us at the church on **Tuesday evenings at 7 pm** as we continue reading and discussing *Grace at Work* by PCA Pastor Bryan Chapell. 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).

News & Needs

13. **Budget Review:** Going into the latter half of the church's fiscal year, the Session has asked the Treasurer and the Board of Deacons to review the budget with an eye towards decreasing costs and increasing revenue. Please pray for God's continued provision and direction. **Thank you for your generous support.**
14. **Life Change:** Our February **Life Change giving** will go to 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.
15. **Search for Music Director:** As Colin Deay prepares to transition to a new ministry, the Session is looking for someone to fill his enormous shoes as Music Director! We plan to call someone in March. If you want a copy of the job description, please contact Pastor Bill Lovell at bill@metrocrestchurch.org.
16. **Pastor Bill Away:** Pastor Bill Lovell is scheduled to be away March 6-13 attending a Board meeting in Cairo, Egypt. The trip is being paid for by Arab Vision, a ministry that produces Christian discipleship and evangelism materials in Arabic. Pastor Bill has served many years as Treasurer of the US affiliate.

High Fives & Thanks

17. **Chili Cook-off Volunteers:** The Fellowship Team thanks everyone who pitched in to help with this year's Chili Cook-off. Thanks, first of all, to everyone who attended—y'all are why we do this annual event! Special thanks also to everyone who (1) helped with setup and tear-down; (2) prepared and served all the delicious and interesting chili recipes; and (3) got out on the dance floor and proved once again that Christians at MPC know how to square dance!
18. **Women's Ministry in 2022:** Huge thanks to Susan D. Smith for doing such an outstanding job coordinating MPC's women's ministry. She is stepping down after over a year.

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: \$4,205

Projected Giving to Date: \$348,329

Actual Giving to Date: \$285,702

Difference to date: + or – (- \$62,627)

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
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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
Josh Wyman