



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship
With Ordination & Installation of Officers
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
February 4, 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

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship - Psalm 36:5-7a

Leader: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Unison: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.

Leader: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"

Trinity Hymnal #535

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore;
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

*El profundo amor de Cristo,
Grande, sin comparación,
Es refugio de descanso,
Es un mar de bendición.
El profundo amor de Cristo,
Es un cielo para mí;
Me levanta hasta la Gloria,
Pues me lleva hacia Ti.*

*The deep love of Christ,
Great, without comparison,
Is a refuge of rest,
Is a sea of blessing;
The deep love of Christ
Is heaven for me;
Raise me to glory,
Well it leads me to You.*

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Lord of the Sabbath"

Theme Verse - Matthew 12:5-8

Jesus said, "[H]ave you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

Hymn - "Lord of the Sabbath, Hear Us Pray"

Trinity Hymnal #390

Lord of the Sabbath, hear us pray,
In this Your house, on this Your day;
And own, as grateful sacrifice,
The songs which from Your temple rise.

Now met to pray and bless Your name,
Whose mercies flow each day the same,
Whose kind compassions never cease,
We seek instruction, pardon, peace.

Your earthly Sabbaths, Lord, we love,
But there's a nobler rest above;
To that our lab'ring souls aspire,
With ardent hope and strong desire.

In Your blest kingdom we shall be
From ev'ry mortal trouble free;
No sighs shall mingle with the songs
Resounding from immortal tongues.

No rude alarms of raging foes;
No cares to break the long repose;
No midnight shade, no waning moon,
But sacred, high, eternal noon.

O long-expected day, begin,
Dawn on these realms of woe and sin!
Break, morn of God, upon our eyes;
And let the world's true Sun arise!

We Confess Our Sins

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 - "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee when sorrows rise;
On Thee when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.
To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal.
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief
For every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail
I fear to call Thee mine;
The springs of comfort seem to fail,
And all my hopes decline.
Yet gracious God where shall I flee?
Thou art my only trust.
And still my soul would cleave to Thee,
Though prostrate in the dust.

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,
And shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace
Be deaf when I complain?
No, still the ear of sovereign grace

Attends the mourner's prayer;
Oh may I ever find access
To breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still;
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope, attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.
Thy mercy seat is open still;
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope, attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.

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 - "Restless Until I Rest in You"

How many idols have I held,
Adoring, lifeless in my hands –
What wayward hymns my lips have spelled,
To feel the love my soul demands.
This longing heart, these restless fists,
Unsatisfied by loves untrue,
In jealous searching still persist –
Restless until they rest in You.

My great desire, may it be,
Not wealth that dims and with me dies;
No good from all my work I see,
A treasure fading from my eyes.
In living waters, endless streams,
Blossoming in this desert place,

Sustain the heart that fondly dreams
In glory to behold Your face.

That glory, can this world obscure?
And can I in my wand'ring leave?
Sorrow for sin I still endure,
And wonder whether You forgive.
I long to know those blood-washed stains.
I long to see these heavens new.
I know a Sabbath still remains;
Restless until I rest in You.

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 12:1-14

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Lord of the Sabbath"

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

We Recognize Leaders Whom God Provides

Convening the Session with the Board of Deacons

Moderator - Bill Lovell

Session - John Fowler, Paul Hartgrove, Larry Perry

Board of Deacons - Dalton Dallas, Will Grover

Explanation of the Warrant and Nature of the Offices

Elders - 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Deacons - 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Introduction of Newly Elected Officers

Elders - Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, James Woods

Deacons - Vianny D'Souza, Brian Ray

Vows Taken by Officers

Leader: Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Officers: I do.

Leader: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

Officers: I do.

Leader: Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?

Officers: I do.

Pastor: (To the Ruling Elders) Do you accept the office of Ruling Elder in this Church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?

REs: I do.

Pastor: (To the Deacons) Do you accept the office of Deacon in this Church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?

Deacons: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?

Officers: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

Officers: I do.

Vow Taken by the Congregation

Pastor: Do you, the members of this Church, acknowledge and receive Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, and James Woods as Ruling Elders, and Vianny D'Souza and Brian Ray as Deacons; and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which their offices, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitle them?

Unison: We do.

Installation and Ordination of Officers

Pastor: (To the Ruling Elders Being Installed, All Standing) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we install you as Members of the Session.

Ordained Elders and Deacons are now invited to come forward to participate in the Ordination and Laying On of Hands of our new Deacons.

(To the Deacons Being Ordained and Installed, Each Kneeling) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we ordain you to the office of Deacon in the Presbyterian Church in America and install you as members of the Board of Deacons.

Offering the Right Hand of Fellowship

Pastor: (To All Those Just Ordained and Installed) We give you the right hand of fellowship, to take part in this office with us.

Declaration of Installation and Ordination

Pastor: I now pronounce and declare that Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, and James Woods have been regularly elected and installed Ruling Elders in this Church, and that Vianny D'Souza and Brian Ray have been regularly elected, ordained and installed Deacons in this Church, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that as such they are entitled to all encouragement, honor and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Charge to the Officers and to the Congregation

We Respond To God's Grace

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 - "The Church's One Foundation"

Trinity Hymnal #347

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation,

Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on Earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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.

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!" Words by Samuel Trevor Francis, music by Thomas John Williams, Spanish translation by Ellen de Eck. **"Lord of the Sabbath, Hear Us Pray"** Music by William Gardiner, words by Philip Doddridge, alt. By Thomas Cotterill. **"Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul"** © 1998 Kevin Twit Music. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Words by Anne Steele, Music by Kevin Twit. **"Restless Until I Rest in You"** Words and music by Colin Deay – © 2020 Colin Deay Music, all rights reserved. **"The Church's One Foundation"** Words by Samuel J. Stone, Music by Samuel S. Wesley. CCLI License #451603.

New Officers

We are grateful to God for our new officers. Please pray for them.



Deacon Vianny D'Souza

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Deacon Brian Ray

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Ruling Elder Rick Bajema

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Ruling Elder Bill Camp

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Ruling Elder Rick Carruth

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Ruling Elder James Woods

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Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 12:1-14

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." 3 He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue. 10 And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him. 11 He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, how to destroy Him.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 12:1-14

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Lord of the Sabbath"

Introduction

"When Jesus began His ministry, the old covenant was still in effect and all of its requirements were binding on Jews, the special people of that covenant. Jesus observed every demand and met every condition of Scripture, but it was His own word, which He came to fulfill and not destroy. But for several hundred years the various schools of rabbis had added regulation after regulation, going far beyond the teaching of Scripture and in many instances actually contradicting it. In no area were these additions more extensive and extreme than in regard to Sabbath observance." John MacArthur

Indictment (vv 1-2)

Instruction (vv 3-8)

Illustration (vv 9-13)

Insurrection (v 14)

"The apostles taught Christians to worship on the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection, "the Lord's day" (Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10), treating it as the Christian Sabbath. These changes were momentous, but the pattern of praise, thanks, desire, trust, purity, and service, which constitutes true worship, continues unchanged to this day." J.I. Packer

Church Life Notes

Today - February 4, 2024

1. **Fifth 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. **Ordination & Installation:** Today we install four Ruling Elders to the Session—Rick Bajema, Bill Camp, Rick Carruth and James Woods; and ordain and install two Deacons to the Board of Deacons—Vianny D'Souza and Brian Ray.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Jay Marble. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Colton Huckaby.
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:** 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

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** - Highly interactive study of "The Gospel According to Isaiah"—led by Will Grover.
7. **Women's Ministry:** MPC's Women's Bible Study will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday nights at the church, starting Tuesday, February 13. The study will also be available via Zoom. We will study I and 2 Kings using the guide "What A Royal Mess" by Susan Tyner. Call or email Melodie Bajema to register and receive the study book (214-669-7135 or rbajema5@sbcglobal.net).
8. **Valentine Recital:** Please join us at the church on Saturday, February 10, at 4:00pm, to hear UNT's Zhaohan Wang perform works by Beethoven and Chopin.
9. **Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance:** Please plan to join us for this long-time MPC favorite, set for 5:30pm on Saturday, March 2! Everyone is invited to cook their best chili recipe and bring it to the church to share in a friendly competition. And while the judges do their thing, we will enjoy great old-time Square Dancing with a professional caller. Put it on your family calendar and come along!

News & Needs

10. **Safeguarding Committee:** MPC is committed to being a community that is free of sexual harassment. If you ever experience harassing behavior by a pastor, officer, staff person, or Church member, please contact **Diane Kizziar** (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or **Paul Hartgrove** (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
11. **Men's Book Group:** Continuing next week, 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. **Newest Church Member:** Please welcome Elinor Hite, MPC's newest communing member.
14. **New Church Officers:** Congratulations and best wishes to our new Church Officers who are being recognized today!

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:**
 - **Church Officers** - For God's blessing on our Session and Board of Deacons.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's 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, Kathy Carruth (Rick Carruth's mom), 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 Lydia Judith and new mom and dad, Madeleine and Caleb Esmond.

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) submitting 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 - \$6,254; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$217,657; and our projected giving to-date - \$244,423. 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!

Bill Lovell
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Will Grover
Joseph Marble

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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Vianny D'Souza
Will Grover
Brian Ray