



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Easter
April 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

Call to Worship - Psalm 47:1-2

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Unison: **For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.**

We Respond To God's Call

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn - "See, What a Morning (Resurrection Hymn)"

See what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping: 'Where is He laid?'
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
This voice that spans the years, speaking life,
Stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him, death is dead,
Love has won, Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Resurrected King, His First Deniers, and Us"

Theme Verses - Matthew 28:13-14

[On the first Easter, the chief priests and elders lied and said of the resurrected Jesus], "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

Hymn - "In Love, God Gives Us Witnesses"

Tune: Cheshire

In love, God gives us witnesses
Whose lips He doth employ
To share with humble honesty
Christ's resurrection joy.

God gave us, first, eyewitnesses
To see and then to tell
Of cross, of grave, of empty tomb,
Of Him who conquered hell.

Our faithful sisters, Peter too,
The Twelve, and others blessed
To see the resurrected Lord,
They worshiped and confessed.

Chief priests denied for evil hate;
The soldiers lied for greed;
But Thomas saw Christ's bloody wounds,
Then worshiped and believed.

Like martyred Stephen, Peter, Paul,
With voices strong and clear,
May we give witness to God's world
With courage, without fear.

So, Father, now, Your risen Son
May we proclaim by grace,
'Til, in Your perfect time, O Lord,
We see Him face to face.

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 - "Amazing Grace"

Trinity Hymnal #460

Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound –
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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 the name of the resurrected Christ.

Hymn - "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You!
All on earth Your scepter claim;
All in heaven above adore You!
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign;
Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

Lo! The apostolic train
Join the sacred name to hallow.
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on;
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name You;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim You;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery;
While we own the mystery.

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 28:11-15

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Resurrected King, His First Deniers, and Us"

We Commune At God's Table

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, and wait to consume the elements until all have been served. Please dispose of used cups in the receptacles as you leave.

Prayer after Holy Communion

Eternal God, heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your family. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, You have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of His body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and singleness of heart. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 - "O Church, Arise"

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle;
That we may run with faith, to win the prize
Of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

"**See, What a Morning (Resurrection Hymn)**" © 2003 Thankyou Music, music and words by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. "**In Love, God Gives Us Witnesses**" Words by Bill Lovell, music from Este's Psalter, 1592. "**Amazing Grace**" Words by John Newton, Music arr. by Edwin O. Excell. "**Holy God, We Praise Your Name**" Translated by Clarence Alphoneus Walworth. "**O Church, Arise**" Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend - © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 28:11-15

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 28:11-15

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Resurrected King, His First Deniers, and Us"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

Introduction

Who were the first deniers of Christ's resurrection? (vv 11-12)

What did the first deniers do? (vv 13-15)

What did the first witnesses do to respond to the first deniers?

What can we learn from what the first deniers did?

Church Life Notes

Today - April 14, 2024

1. **Third Sunday of Easter:** Easter is far too wonderful to keep to just one day, so, at Metrocrest, today is the third Sunday of Easter—a whole season of fifty days to reflect on the resurrection of Christ.
2. **Holy Communion:** We will share the Lord's Supper today, as we usually do on the second Sunday of each month. All who know and worship the Lord Jesus, and are in communion with His church, are invited to receive at His table.
3. **Serving Today:** Our scheduled Liturgy Leader is Paul Hartgrove. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Vianny D'Souza.
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. **Christian Community Action:** Please join us this coming Wednesday, April 17, from 5:30-8:00pm at CCA's food pantry, as we help with shopping, bagging, loading cars, and working the registers. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove at 972-816-2205 or via email at paul.hartgrove@gmail.com. We need about 8-10 volunteers. CCA is located at 200 South Mill Street in Lewisville.
8. **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).
9. **Men's Book Group:** We've added an additional Tuesday evening meeting on Jimmy Davis' *Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life*. Please join us at 7:00pm as we discuss what we've learned and an action plan moving forward. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).

10. **Monthly Play Date:** On the first Friday of each month, MPC moms and kids (all ages) are invited to a monthly play date. Our next one is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at 10:00am, at a location TBA.

News & Needs

11. **Life Change:** This month's collection will go to support **MNA Disaster Response - Sheds of Hope**, a project in which teams go to a property that has been destroyed and build a structure that the family will own to store their belongings while their home is being restored.
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 one of our Safeguarding Committee Members: Diane Kizziar (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Eric Rau's Recital:** Big high five to MPC's Eric Rau who did a spectacular job at his recital last Sunday, performing difficult pieces by Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich.

Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Yemen, Iran, and Haiti.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Faithful Witness** - For God to help each of us to witness to those who do not trust in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's generous provision.
16. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Linda Bull (Scott Marrs' friend), Gary Collum (Paul Hartgrove's friend, whose wife Karen died), Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Max Kizziar, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ruth Lerner (Elinor Hites' sister), Ariel Lopez, Ashley Marble, Alana Marion, Mike Marion, Tom Mayfield, Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn.
 - **Expecting Couples:** For God's blessing on Dorian & Joseph Marble, Rachele & Ben Fant, Olivia & Avery Berg, Maurane & Colton Huckaby, Sam & Josh Wyman, and Stephen & Nikki Grzybowski.

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 - \$5,443; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$296,682; and projected giving to-date - \$323,269. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



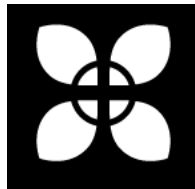
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org

The Session (Elders)

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

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas, President
Vianny D'Souza, Clerk
Will Grover, Treasurer
Brian Ray



Bill Lovell

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

Pastor

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Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director
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