



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 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 22:27-28

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

Unison: For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.

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 Witnesses, and Us"

Theme Verses - Matthew 28:10

Then Jesus said to [Mary Magdalene and the other Mary], "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Hymn - "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"

Trinity Hymnal #26

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name:
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might:
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word:
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore.

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 - "Jesus, My Great High Priest"

Trinity Hymnal #306

Jesus, my great High Priest,
Offered His blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone,
And now it pleads before the throne.

To this dear Surety's hand
Will I commit my cause;
He answers and fulfills
His Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set;
My Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears
For my defense on high;
The Father bows His ears
And lays His thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say
Shall turn His heart, His love, away.

Should all the hosts of death
And pow'rs of hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms
Of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays
His conqu'ring pow'r and guardian grace.

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 the name of the resurrected Christ.

Hymn - "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All;
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh;
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save,
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay;
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His, and He is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till He returns or calls me home;
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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 28:7-10

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 Witnesses, and Us"

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 - "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed"

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice,
To conquer every sting of death –
Sing, sing hallelujah!

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King –
Christ, Christ He is risen!

(Refrain)

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.
Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah!

Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of grace,
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting. **(Refrain)**

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace –
Go, tell of His goodness! **(Refrain)**

He is risen – He's alive! He's alive!
Heaven's gates are opened wide.
He's alive! He's alive!
Now in heaven glorified.

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. **"Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"** Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, Music by Walter Greatorex, Text © 1962. Renewal 1990. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune by permission of Oxford University Press. **"Jesus, My Great High Priest"** Words by Isaac Watts, Music by John Goss. "In Christ Alone" Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend – © 2001 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. **"Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed"** Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Ed Cash – © 2012 Capitol CMG Paragon, Getty Music Publishing. All rights reserved. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 28:7-10

28:7 "Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

New International Version - Matthew 28:7-10

28:7 "Then go quickly and tell His disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me."

American Standard Version - Matthew 28:7-10

28:7 And go quickly, and tell His disciples, He is risen from the dead; and lo, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. 9 And behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and took hold of His feet, and worshipped Him. 10 Then saith Jesus unto them, Fear not: go tell My brethren that they depart into Galilee, and there shall they see Me.

Greek New Testament - Matthew 28:7-10

28:7 και ταχὺ πορευθεῖσαι εἶπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ὅτι Ἠγέρθη ἀπὸ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἰδοὺ προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε· ἰδοὺ εἶπον ὑμῖν. 8 καὶ ἀπελθοῦσαι ταχὺ ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου μετὰ φόβου καὶ χαρᾶς μεγάλης ἔδραμον ἀπαγγεῖλαι τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ. 9 καὶ ἰδοὺ Ἰησοῦς ὑπήντησεν αὐταῖς λέγων, Χαίρετε. αἱ δὲ προσελθοῦσαι ἐκράτησαν αὐτοῦ τοὺς πόδας καὶ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ. 10 τότε λέγει αὐταῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Μὴ φοβησθε· ὑπάγετε ἀπαγγείλατε τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου ἵνα ἀπέλθωσιν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, κακεῖ με ὄψονται.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 28:7-10

Pastor Bill Lovell

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

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

Introduction - Witness

What is a witness?

Who were the first witnesses? (vv 1-6)

What were the first witnesses instructed to do? (vv 7,10)

What did the first witnesses do? (vv 8,9)

How does it matter to us what the first witnesses did?

Church Life Notes

Today - April 7, 2024

1. **Second Sunday of Easter:** Easter is far too wonderful to keep to just one day, so, at Metrocrest, today is the second Sunday of Easter—a whole season of fifty days to reflect on the resurrection of Christ.
2. **Serving Today:** Our scheduled Liturgy Leader is John Fowler. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove.
3. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
4. **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

5. **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.
6. **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).
7. **Men's Book Group:** We've added two additional Tuesday evening meetings 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).
8. **Women's Spring Tea:** Next Saturday, April 13, at 10:00am, all women and young ladies (4th grade and up) are invited to a Spring Tea hosted by our Women's Ministry here at the church. Dress in your Sunday best and bring a plate of savory or sweet snacks. For reservations or info, please RSVP via the sign-up sheets in the lobby or contact Liz Withers (design.pr@verizon.net, 214-236-9616).
9. **Restore Mercy Conference:** On April 12-13, Mission to North America is gathering in Dallas to discuss caring for others in Christ's name. Pastor Bill Lovell is moderating a session on "Developing a Care Plan for Members in Need." For info, speak to Pastor Bill.

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.
11. **Stated Session Meetings:** The Session has set the first Wednesday night of each month for its monthly stated meeting. The next Stated Session Meeting is Wednesday, May 1, beginning at 6:00pm. If meetings must be rescheduled, we will provide details on Realm.

News & Needs

12. **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.

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Children's Choir:** Big thanks to a dozen of our youngest covenant members who opened last Sunday's Easter worship service.
14. **Easter Choir:** Big thanks to Anne Bajema, Hayden Bernays, Cheyenne Camp, Madeleine Esmond, Rachele Fant, Bill Greisser, Ann Harris, Bella Harris, Grace Laird, Dorian Marble, Joseph Marble, John Orr, Rohan Patel, Nick Rhodes, Liz Wallin, and Lori Winn.
15. **Youth Music Team:** Big thanks to youth group members who closed the Easter service—Aiden McAnally, Cheyenne Camp, Olivia Marrs, and Rohan Patel, and Youth Leaders Joseph & Dorian Marble.

Prayer Requests

16. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Yemen, and Haiti.
17. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Church Finances** - For God's generous provision.
18. **For One Another:**
 - **Faithful Witness** - For God to help each of us to witness to those who do not trust in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, 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), family of Phyllis Sayes (Dawna Guzak's mom who died this week), Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on expectant couples, Dorian & Joseph Marble, Rachelle & Ben Fant, Olivia & Avery Berg, Maurane & Colton Huckaby, and Sam & Josh Wyman.

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 - \$8,973; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$291,239; and projected giving to-date - \$315,385. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



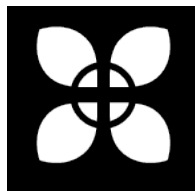
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org!

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

Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director
Safeguarding Committee
Safeguarding Committee

bill@metrocrestchurch.org
laura@metrocrestchurch.org
nick@metrocrestchurch.org
treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org
joseph@metrocrestchurch.org
paul.hartgrove@gmail.com
dianekizziar@gmail.com