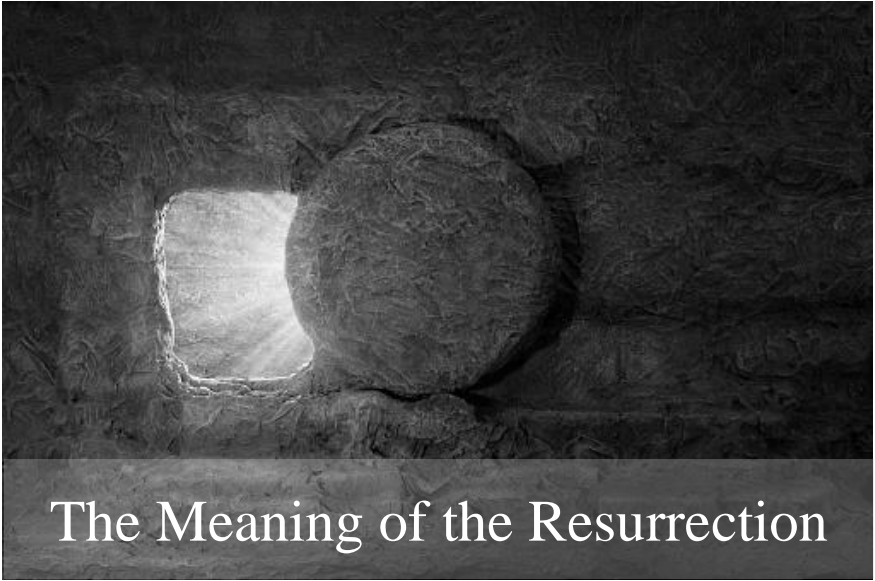




METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Meaning of the Resurrection

**Holy Communion
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 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

Call to Worship - Psalm 96:1-2

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

Unison: Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Leader: Sing to the Lord, bless His name;

Unison: Tell of His salvation from day to day.

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come!
Look to Christ who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery;
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
See the Father's plan unfold,
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him;

Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
How unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Resurrected Christ Calls Us to Mission"

Theme Verses - Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Trinity Hymnal #164

O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim;
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list'ning to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosen'd tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, our Everlasting Father, we confess that we have sinned against You. We confess that while You have faithfully reached out to us, we have been reluctant to heed Your call. We confess that we have too often ignored Your invitation to love, to follow, to serve. We confess that we have too often pretended that we were healthy when we knew in our hearts we needed You to heal us. Forgive us and open our hearts to Your love. Open our hands and open our eyes for opportunities to serve You.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon - Ephesians 2:4-5

Leader: God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

"Son of God"

There is a place of sorrow and love,
The innocent Savior broken and bleeding for us.
The nails in His hands, thorns on His brow,
Rivers of mercy endlessly flowing down.

The Son of God high and lifted up,
The Father's love came pouring down for us.
He has overcome.

There is a place for all who would come,
His arms are open, our sins are washed white in His blood.
The lost and unworthy come find your home,
The broken and hurting, His love will never let go.

(Refrain)

The Son of God high and lifted up,
The Father's love came pouring down for us.
He has overcome.
The spotless Lamb for every sinner slain,
Our victory, our hope beyond the grave.
He has overcome.
He has overcome.

Now my song will ever be,
Of my Savior's love for me.
When at last His face I see,
With all the saints in glory. **(Refrain)**

We Profess Our Faith

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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Trinity Hymnal #53, verses 1-3, 5

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
Gladly fore'er we adore Him.

Prayer of Intercession

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Acts 1:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

“The Resurrection and the Mission of the Church”

Sermon Series: "The Meaning of the Resurrection"

Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our website

We Commune At God's Table

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

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.

Leader: Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Holy Communion

We Respond To God's Grace

Giving to Support Gospel Ministry

"Behold the Lamb"

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
Around the table of the King.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Closing 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.

Postlude and Meditation

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" Words and Music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker – © 2013 Love Your Enemies Publishing. All rights reserved. Used with Permission. **"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason. **"Son of God"** © Open Hands Music | So Essential Tunes | Integrity Worship Music | Watershed Publishing Group | Bethel Music Publishing. **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** Words by Joachim Neander, tr. by Catherine Winkworth. **"Behold the Lamb"** Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend – © 2006 Thankyou Music/Adm. by worshiptogether.com songs excl. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Acts 1:1-11

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "you heard from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

Sermon Notes

Acts 1:1-11

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Resurrection and the Mission of the Church"

1. Jesus' Mission

2. The Church's Mission

Church Life Notes

Today

1. **Happy Easter!** Easter is far too important to keep to just one day, so at Metrocrest we celebrate Easter for a whole season. From Easter until Pentecost—a total of fifty days—we join Christians around the world in reflecting on the meaning of Christ's resurrection.
2. **Serving Today:** The scheduled Service Leader this morning is James Woods. The scheduled Prayer Leader is Larry Perry.
3. **Holy Communion:** It's the Second Sunday of the month, so we will share the Lord's Supper this morning. All baptized persons who worship the Lord Jesus Christ and are in communion with His church are welcome to receive. Please come forward as directed. We offer both grape juice and, in the outer ring of each tray, in tinted cups, wine. Please take the elements to your seat and wait to consume them until we do so together. Please dispose of cups at the back of the church at the end of the service.
4. **Happy Mother's Day!** To every mom here today, we thank God for you and wish you a day filled with love and joy! For the moms who are not here today, including those who are now with Jesus, we thank God for them too and for all they did to help us and support us. For those who are alienated from their moms, we pray for healing and reconciliation. For those who have not had children, or have had fertility issues, we pray for peace and comfort—and for miracles. And for those who never really knew the love of a mother, we pray that Jesus' perfect love will fill in where others have fallen short.
5. **Service Changes:** We are making a few changes to our worship service. Most will probably be invisible to you, involving the rotation of different prayers in the bulletin, but a few changes will likely get your attention. For instance, we will start saying the Nice Creed on Communion Sundays (like today); and, as what we hope will be a temporary cost-cutting measure, we have started printing the bulletin in black and white.
6. **Called Prayer Meeting:** Please join us after church today to pray for the families of the victims of the shootings last weekend in Allen, for the community of Allen, and especially for the family of Laura Stites, our church's administrative assistant who lives there.
7. **MPC Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. Enjoy Mother's Day with your family.
8. **Prayer with the Pastor:** If you have something you'd like to pray about this morning, please speak to Pastor Bill Lovell. He will be happy to make arrangements.

Upcoming Activities & Events

9. **Sunday School at Metrocrest:** We offer discipleship opportunities for all ages:
 - **Children** - 9-10 am, through May 21, restarting in the fall
 - **Youth** - 9-10 am, through May 21, restarting in the fall
 - **Adults** - 9-10 am, through the summer. This morning, Pastor Bill taught on "MPC Leadership Unplugged," answering questions and discussing future plans. On May 21 and 28, James Woods is set to lead two discussion on the *Solas* of the Reformation. On June 4, Will Grover will start a class on Job.
10. **Youth Lake House Weekend:** Elizabeth Lloyd and her family have graciously invited the youth group out to their lake house on June 2- 4. We'll meet at the church at 5:15 pm on Friday and will return by the end of worship on Sunday. The cost per student is \$30. For more details or questions, please reach out to our Youth Director Joseph Marble (joseph@metrocrestchurch.org).
11. **Discovering Metrocrest:** Interesting in joining MPC? Please speak to Pastor Bill.

News & Needs

12. **Life Change** for the month of May will support The Covenant Fund that was put in place to support the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. This fund will help assist with the immediate and ongoing relief and restoration of people and property affected by the recent shooting at the Covenant School on the church campus.
13. **Christian Community Action:** Please join us on **Wednesday, May 17**, from 5:30-8:00 pm 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.
14. **Lost and Found:** We are holding several items that have been left in the church, including a lipstick, a leather-bound Reformation Study Bible, and a green jacket with a flower button it.

High Fives & Thanks

15. **From Laura Stites:** Thank you all for praying for my family during this difficult time. I'm grateful for a community of believers that are coming alongside us.

Prayer Requests

16. **Norm and Lori Winn:** For strength and wisdom for their doctors; for Lori while Norm is in the hospital
17. **Laura Stites:** For her family as they continue to process and work through the tragedy

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 share your prayer requests with us 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: \$11,211

Projected Giving to Date: \$429,885

Actual Giving to Date: \$375,066

Difference to date: + or - (- \$54,819)

Our budget fiscal year is July 2022 - June 2023. For budget information or stewardship assistance, you may contact the Treasurer Will Grover 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
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Will Grover
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The Board of Deacons
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Will Grover