



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 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 People of the Risen King”

Come people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace. **(Refrain)**

Come young and old from ev'ry land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age:
Our God is all in all. **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Praying Church"

Theme Verse - Acts 1:14

All the disciples with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

"Your Will Be Done"

Your will be done, my God and Father,
As in heaven, so on earth.
My heart is drawn to self-exalting;
Help me seek Your kingdom first.
As Jesus walked, so I shall walk,
Held by Your same unchanging love.
Be still my soul, O lift your voice and pray:
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done.'

How in that garden He persisted
I may never fully know;
The fearful weight of true obedience,
It was held by Him alone.
What wondrous faith, to bear that cross!
To bear my sin, what wondrous love!
My hope was sure when there my Savior prayed:
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done.'

When I am lost, when I am broken
In the night of fear and doubt,
Still I will trust in my good Father;
Yes, to one great King I bow!
As Jesus rose, so I shall rise
In ransomed glory at the throne;
My heart restored, with all Your saints I sing:
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done!'

As we go forth, our God and Father,
Lead us daily in the fight,
That all the world might see Your glory,
And Your Name be lifted high.
And in this Name we overcome,
For You shall see us safely home.
Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray:
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done!'
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done!'
'Father, not my will, but Yours be done!'

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.

"Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

Trinity Hymnal #465

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

(Refrain)

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross. **(Refrain)**
Dark is the stain that we cannot hide;

What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today. **(Refrain)**

We Profess Our Faith

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

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men;
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way;
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

(Refrain)

You are the one that we praise!
You are the one we adore!
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne;
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Intercession

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word - Acts 1:12-26

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Praying Church"

Sermon Series: "The Meaning of the Resurrection"

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

We Respond To God's Grace

Giving to Support Gospel Ministry

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Trinity Hymnal #629

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

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" "Come People of the Risen King" Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend – Text © 2007 Thankyou Music, All rights reserved. "Your Will Be Done" Words and Music by Rich Thompson and Jonny Robinson – © CityAlight Music, All rights reserved. "Marvelous Grace of our Loving Lord" Words by Julia H. Johnston, music by Daniel B. Towner. "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse – © 1989 Curb Dayspring Music (admin. By Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Cor.), Word Music (Admin. by WB Music Corp.). CCLI Song # 106879. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Words by Joseph Scriven, Music by Charles C. Converse. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Acts 1:12-26

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.[a]

15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, 16 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong[b] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office.'

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." 23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

[a] Acts 1:14 Or *brothers and sisters*. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated "brothers") may refer either to brothers or to brothers and sisters; also verse 15

[b] Acts 1:18 Or *swelling up*

Sermon Notes

Acts 1:12-26

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Praying Church"

Introduction – Pentecost Minus Ten Days

1. Priority # 2 - Leadership (vv 15-26)

2. Priority #1 - Prayer (vv 12-14)

"We must learn to measure ourselves, not by our knowledge about God, not by our gifts and responsibilities in the church, but by how we pray and what goes on in our hearts. Many of us, I suspect, have no idea how impoverished we are at this level. Let us ask the Lord to show us." - J. I. Packer

Priority

Unity

Devotion

Perseverance

Church Life Notes

Today

1. **Happy Easter!** Easter season 2023 is drawing to a close. Next Sunday, May 28, is Pentecost. Sunday, June 4, is Trinity Sunday.
2. **Serving Today:** The scheduled Liturgy Leader this morning is Jay Marble. The scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove.
3. **MPC Children's Sunday School:** Our Sunday School program has had a great year! Today, we recognize the young people who have learned a lot and been a joy to work with. We also want to recognize and thank our teachers and volunteers.
4. **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.
5. **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

6. **Sunday School at Metrocrest:** We offer discipleship opportunities for all ages:
 - **Children** - 9-10 am, through today, restarting in the fall
 - **Youth** - 9-10 am, through today, restarting in the fall
 - **Adults** - 9-10 am, through the summer. This morning, James Woods began a two-part discussion on the *Solas* of the Reformation. On June 4, Will Grover will start a class on Job.
7. **Judy Massey is moving to Kansas!** Please join us this afternoon at 2:30 pm for a going away party honoring Judy at the Evergreen at Arbor Hills Apartments (2314 Parker Road, Carrollton 75010).
8. **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).
9. **Discovering Metrocrest:** Interesting in joining MPC? Please speak to Pastor Bill.
10. **Youth Service Week:** Save the date! Our youth service week is coming up on June 26-30. If you have a project around your home that our youth can help with, such as painting, yard work, etc., please reach out to Joseph Marble. Stay tuned for more details.

News & Needs

11. **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.
12. **Lost and Found:** We are currently 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

13. **Allen Prayer Meeting:** Thank you to everyone who participated in last Sunday's Called Prayer Meeting, asking for God's mercy after the Allen shootings.
14. **Congratulations to the class of 2023!** Whether your plans take you on to college or a career, know that we are proud of your accomplishments, and pray for God's rich blessings in whatever you do next!
 - **Trey Carruth** will be starting the Engineering program at Eastern University in St. David's, Pennsylvania, and has committed to playing baseball as a right-handed pitcher.
 - **Katie Kizziar** is planning on attending John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, to study economics.
 - **Rohan Patel** is entering the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M in College Station.
 - **Hannah McAnally** will be attending the University of Dallas, pursuing journalism.
 - **Abigail Stites** will attend Texas Tech in Lubbock, with a focus on the athletic training field.

Prayer Requests

15. Will Grover: Please pray for the family, students, and colleagues of Professor Rodney Andrews who passed away from a sudden heart attack last week.

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: \$5,676

Projected Giving to Date: \$440,130

Actual Giving to Date: \$380,742

Difference to date: + or - (- \$59,388)

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
Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director

bill@metrocrestchurch.org
laura@metrocrestchurch.org
nick@metrocrestchurch.org
treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org
joseph@metrocrestchurch.org



The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover