



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King  
& His  
Kingdom

**Holy Communion**  
**Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost**  
**October 8, 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

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## Welcome

### Call to Worship - Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Unison: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**

Leader: Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**Unison: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Leader: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

## We Respond To God's Call

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### Opening Hymn - "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

Trinity Hymnal #87

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear none ill,  
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me:  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

## **Acknowledging God's Presence**

### **Worship Theme - "The Gospel Changes Everything"**

#### **Theme Verses - Matthew 9:16-17**

"No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

#### **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'ful 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 Confess Our Sins**

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#### **Prayer of Confession - Adapted from Psalm 51:1-17**

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us

thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.*

### **Assurance of Pardon - 1 John 1:8-9**

**Leader:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn - "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 myst'ry;  
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 myst'ry,  
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 myst'ry,  
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.

## We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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### **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**

#### **Hymn - "Ancient of Days"**

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,  
There is still one King reigning over all.  
So, I will not fear, for this truth remains,  
That my God is the Ancient of Days.

#### **(Refrain)**

None above Him, none before Him;  
All of time in His hands;  
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand.  
All the power, all the glory;  
I will trust in His name,  
For my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul,  
He is here with me; I am not alone.  
O, His love is sure and He knows my name,  
For my God is the Ancient of Days. **(Refrain)**

Though I may not see what the future brings,  
I will watch and wait for the Savior King.  
Then, my joy complete, standing face to face  
In the presence of the Ancient of Days. **(Refrain)**

### **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.**

### **Prayer of Intercession**

## **We Receive God's Word**

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### **Reading God's Word - Matthew 9:14-17**

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**Unison:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Understanding and Applying God's Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"The Gospel Changes Everything"**

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

## **We Commune At God's Table**

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### **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.*

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

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### **Closing Hymn - "Before the Throne of God Above"**

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands.  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heaven He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because a sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me;  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace!  
One in Himself, I cannot die;  
My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

# God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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## **Closing Blessing - 1 Thessalonians 5:24**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**“And Can it Be that I Should Gain”** Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Thomas Campbell.  
**“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me”** Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren – © 2018 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, All Rights Reserved. **“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”** Words and music by Philip P. Bliss. **“Will You Retreat, O Everlasting Arms?”** Words and Music by Colin Deay - © 2020 Colin Deay. **“By Faith”** © 2009 Thankyou Music; Getty Music Publishing. CCLI License #451603.



# Sermon Text

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## **English Standard Version - Matthew 9:14-17**

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

# Sermon Notes

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## **Matthew 9:14-17**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"The Gospel Changes Everything"**

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - October 8, 2023

1. **Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost!** Pentecost is a season focused on discipleship. For the next several months, between now and Advent, we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew.
2. **Holy Communion:** We will celebrate the Lord's Supper this morning. Because the table we gather around is Jesus' table, we welcome all who know and worship Him as Lord and Savior, and are in communion with His church.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is James Woods. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Paul Hartgrove. Our Preacher is Pastor Bill Lovell.
4. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
5. **Marriage Seminar:** Please join us immediately following worship today as Metrocrest welcomes PCA elder and professional counselor, Jim Pocka, who will be speaking on the biblical design for femininity and masculinity.
6. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for middle and high school youth will meet from 6:00-8:00pm at the church. Tonight please join us for a special night of testimonies given by our leaders. **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

7. **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** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*. Led by James Woods.
8. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us in person or via Zoom **on Tuesdays**, as we study Jonathan Pennington's ***Come and See***. **The author** uses the analogy of a road trip to introduce three friends who each have distinct ways of navigating the Bible: Informational, Theological, and Transformational. For more info, and to RSVP, contact Paul Hartgrove (at 972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Hayden Bernays (haydenbernays@gmail.com).

9. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.
10. **Ladies Night Out:** Please join us for our next Ladies' Hang Out on **Wednesday, October 11, at 7:00pm**, at Bavarian Grill (3425 Premier Dr. Plano, 75023). Come out for food, fun, fellowship, and to get to know other ladies in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
11. **Anniversary Celebration:** Please plan to join us after church on Sunday, October 22, as MPC celebrates 35 years of God's faithfulness. Watch for details.

## News & Needs

12. **Life Change:** This month's collection will support Maui Disaster Relief. The fires that started in early August, driven by 80 mph winds, burned more than 2,100 acres and FEMA has estimated that 2,207 buildings have been destroyed. Please join us in partnering with MNA Disaster Response and our Brothers and Sisters in the Northern California Presbytery to help meet the needs of those affected by this terrible tragedy.

## High Fives & Thanks

13. **Congratulations:** Colton and Maurane Huckaby celebrated their fourth wedding event yesterday afternoon here at Metrocrest!

## Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
  - **Sinners whom Jesus Is Calling to Himself** - For God's mercy on all those whom Jesus calls.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deep and deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach out to them.
  - **Marriage Seminar** - For Jim Pocka and everyone who gets together this afternoon to talk about marriage.
  - **ESL** - For God's blessing on Brian Ray and his team of volunteers as they launch an ESL program at MPC, aimed at our non-English-speaking neighbors.
16. **For One Another:**
  - **Colton Huckaby and Maurane Gisiger** - For God's blessing on their marriage.
  - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on all those who are having health issues, including Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Carole Fowkes, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ellen Perry, Larry Perry, Ron Revell, David Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Scarlett Avery, newborn daughter of Teddy and Melissa Brewer; and Madeleine Esmond, expectant mommy due in January.

**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) 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 a few months into the new fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$7,157; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$85,212; and our projected giving to-date - \$110,385. 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](mailto:info@metrocrestchurch.org)!

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**The Session (Elders)**  
John Fowler  
Paul Hartgrove  
Larry Perry

**The Board of Deacons**  
Dalton Dallas  
Will Grover