



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship
Twenty-Third Sunday of Pentecost
October 29, 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

Welcome

Worship Note - Fifth Sunday

Call to Worship - Psalm 63:1-4

Leader: O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You;

Unison: My flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory.

Unison: Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.

Leader: So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze it's day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain;
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Lord of the Harvest"

Theme Verses - Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Hymn - "Lord, Give Us Eyes to See"

Tune: Trinity Hymnal #334

Lord, give us eyes to see
In earth's unnumbered lands
Today, as once in Galilee
The ripening harvest stands.

Lord, give us ears to heed,
And wills intent to share
That call to lay the harvest's needs
Before its Lord in prayer.

And give us hearts to pray
As You have taught us, Lord,
That God provide His church today
With servants of His word.

We Confess Our Sins

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 - "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 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

Hymn - "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Trinity Hymnal #499

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

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

Prayer for God's Blessing on Our Church's Mission

Leader: Sovereign Father, You have entrusted to the church the
mission of Your Son Jesus Christ. As Lord of the harvest, in
our neighborhood and around the world, please raise up
laborers among us here at Metrocrest, provide the material
resources we need, and above all, Father, please give us
Your Son's compassion for the crowds around us, all those
in need and especially those who do not know You as You
have reveled Yourself in Christ. Give us eyes to see them
as Jesus sees them, as harassed and helpless, as sheep
without a shepherd, and help us to show them the
compassion and love of Your Son.

Unison: **We pray, Father, in His name. Amen.**

We Receive God's Word

Reading God's Word - Matthew 9:35-38

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Lord of the Harvest"

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

We Respond To God's Grace

Closing Hymn - "May the Peoples Praise You"

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light,
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ.

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy,
With endless life.

(Refrain)

May the peoples praise You,
Let the nations be glad;
All Your blessing comes that we may praise –
May praise the name of Jesus.

All the earth is Yours and all within;
Each harvest is Your own.
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known.

May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard;
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word. **(Refrain)**

This our holy priv'lege to declare
Your praises and Your name;
To every nation, tribe, and tongue
Your church proclaim. **(Refrain)**

Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty.
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty.
All creation praise Your glorious name. **(Refrain)**

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

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.

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" Words by George Matheson Music by Chris Miner. **"Lord, Give Us Eyes to See"** Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, TRENTAM tune, Hope Publishing Company © 1966. **"Your Will Be Done"** Words and Music by Rich Thompson and Jonny Robinson – © CityAlight Music, All rights reserved. **"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"** Words by Augustus Toplady, arr. by Thomas Cotterill, Music by Thomas Hastings. **"May the Peoples Praise You"** Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, Ed Cash, and David Zimmer – © 2016 Capitol CMG Paragon | Getty Music Publishing | Townend Songs. All rights reserved. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

New International Version - Matthew 9:35-38

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Greek New Testament - Matthew 9:35-38

35 Καὶ περιῆγεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς πόλεις πάσας καὶ τὰς κώμας, διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν. 36 Ἰδὼν δὲ τοὺς ὄχλους ἐσπλαγχνίσθη περὶ αὐτῶν ὅτι ἦσαν ἐσκυλμένοι καὶ ἔρριμμένοι ὡσεὶ πρόβατα μὴ ἔχοντα ποιμένα. 37 τότε λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ, Ὁ μὲν θερισμὸς πολὺς, οἱ δὲ ἔργатаὶ ὀλίγοι. 38 δεήθητε οὖν τοῦ κυρίου τοῦ θερισμοῦ ὅπως ἐκβάλῃ ἔργατας εἰς τὸν θερισμὸν αὐτοῦ.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 9:35-38

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Lord of the Harvest"

Introduction

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom (v 35)

2. How Jesus Viewed the Crowds (v 36)

3. What That Means for Jesus' Disciples (vv 37-38)

"Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to Him is not a pointed finger but open arms." ~ Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly

Church Life Notes

Today - October 29, 2023

1. **Twenty-Third 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. **Worship Note:** As usual on the fifth Sunday of the month, the MPC Youth Ministry is helping to lead today's Morning Worship.
3. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is Jay Marble. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Will Grover.
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. 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

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** - Careful study of Jared Wilson's *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound like the Truth*.
7. **Men's Book Group** will not meet this week. We'll see you on November 7.
8. **Church Prayer Meeting:** Please join us for corporate prayer on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in Room D-02.
9. **Women's Ministry:** Welcome, baby Scarlett! Metrocrest and the Brewer's extended family invite all the ladies to celebrate Melissa and newborn Scarlett. The come-and-go baby shower will be held on Saturday, November 4, from 4-6:30pm at the church. Please limit gifts to diapers & gift cards (food, Kroger, Kohls). RSVP to Amy Anderson at fergiemouse@hotmail.com. See you there!
10. **Youth Halloween Event:** Please join us on Saturday, November 11, at 3:30 pm at Joseph and Dorian's property (11037 Wilson Guest Drive, Princeton, TX 75407) for our youth Halloween event. We'll be providing snacks, dinner, and smores! Please invite friends! For more information, including carpooling, please contact Youth Director, Joseph Marble (joseph@metrocrestchurch.org).

11. **Save the Date:** This year's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 10, at 4:30pm, followed by holiday treats and cider.

News & Needs

12. **Facility Use:** All facility use inquiries at MPC **must** be submitted to Administrative Assistant Laura Stites (laura@metrocrestchurch.org, 972-394-1122) via our Facility Use Application.

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Anniversary Celebration:** Huge thanks to everyone who attended the potluck reception last Sunday in celebration of Metrocrest's 34th Anniversary. Special thanks to everyone who brought snacks, cookies, and hors d'oeuvres to share.
14. **MPC Youth:** High fives to the MPC Youth Group for participating in last weekend's Roctober VIII Youth Event in Denton. Youth participants included Jon Abood, Cheyenne Camp, Mercy Fowler, Derian Harris, Aiden McAnally, Caleb McAnally, Annaleigh Sterenberg, Jacquelin Sterenberg, Raelynn Sterenberg, and Scott Sterenberg. Adult sponsors, led by Youth Director Joseph Marble, also included Camma Fowler, Colton Huckaby, and Dorian Marble.

Prayer Requests

15. **For The World:**
- **Israel** - For God's mercy on the people of Israel, especially those mourning the loss of loved ones; and on civilians caught between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas.
 - **Lewiston, Maine** - For God's mercy on those caught up in this week's deadly shootings.
 - **Maui, Hawaii** - For God's mercy on those reeling from fires.
16. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
- **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deepening love for sinners and a passion to reach them with the gospel.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's continued provision.
17. **For One Another:**
- **Marriages** - For God's mercy on all married couples.
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on those with health issues, including Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Larry Bounds (Paul Hartgrove's friend), Steve Collinworth, Carole Fowkes (Elinor Hite's friend), Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ashley Marble, Luke Myers, Kristen Novak (Steve and Liz Wallins' daughter), 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 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? 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 several months into this fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$7,923; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$109,767; and our projected giving to-date - \$134,038. 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!

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The Session (Elders)
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Larry Perry

The Board of Deacons
Dalton Dallas
Will Grover