



METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship
Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 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 1:1-3

Leader: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Unison: But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Leader: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit
in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

We Respond To God's Call

Opening Hymn - "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with You to mourn our sins,
And close by You to stay.

As You with Satan did contend,
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in You to fight,
In You to conquer sin.

As You did hunger bear and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By Your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through Your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life
Of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The Tree Is Known By Its Fruit"

Theme Verses - Matthew 12:33,35

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit... The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

Hymn - "Behold the Fruited Trees All Round"

Tune: Trinity Hymnal #254

Behold the fruited trees all round —
Whence comes their ripe'ning fruit?
Before the leaf and bud abound,
First comes the seed and root.

The evil trees sprout poison leaves
From Satan's root below;
Appearance lies and taste deceives,
While deadly shoots full grow.

Fair verdant trees with healthful fruit
Are what our God intends;
From Christ His Son, great Jesse's root,
The fruit of grace He sends.

Good words, good deeds, abundant flow,
From Christ, their root and seed;
Lord Christ, Thy word in us please sow
And with Thy word please feed.

Then from the treasure of our heart,
Made rich by Thy decree,
Bring forth the fruit which Thou impart
By death upon Thy tree.

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession - Based on Exodus 20:1-17

Leader: Let us recount God's sovereign call to obedience, and pray for His sanctifying mercy.

God spoke these words, and said: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods but Me.

Unison: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not make to yourself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth

beneath, or in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath day.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: Honor your father and your mother.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall do no murder.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall not steal.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Unison: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Leader: You shall not covet.

Unison: **Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.**

Leader: Having recounted God's holy law, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Please take a moment for personal reflection and confession.

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 - "Will You Retreat, O Everlasting Arms?"

Will you retreat, O everlasting arms?
And should I fall, will you uphold me still?
Though sin enchants, and foolish dreaming charms,
Will you renew my marrow and my will?
What wondrous grace! Though still my sin alarms,
Love stronger far all righteousness fulfills.

My dwelling place, my God, remain and be;
Shelter and comfort, safety in the fight;
My sword and shield, arrayed in majesty;
I trust, not my, but my great Savior's might.
I hear the cry of finished victory;
Sustain me, Lord, until my faith is sight.

Behold Him there, arms stretched upon the tree;
Carrying wrath, inviting sinners: "come."
Those arms, eternal, holding tight to me -
Embrace of love, not to be parted from;
Beloved Savior, evermore to be,
In life, in death, my sure eternal home.

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 - "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.

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 12:33-37

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Tree Is Known By Its Fruit"

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 - "The Power of the Cross"

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men; torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

(Refrain)

This the pow'r of the cross,
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. **(Refrain)**

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head;
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
"Finished" the vict'ry cry. **(Refrain)**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love. **(Refrain)**

This the pow'r of the cross,
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - Jude 24-25

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" Words by Claudia Frances Hernaman, John's Day Psalter 1562. **"Behold the Fruited Trees All Round"** Words by Bill Lovell, Music by Hugh Wilson, Arr. by Robert A. Smith. **"Will You Retreat, O Everlasting Arms?"** Words and Music by Colin Deay - © 2020 Colin Deay. **"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"** Words by Francis Rous, William Mure, and others, Music by Jessie Seymour Irvine, Arr. by T.C.L. Pritchard. **"The Power of the Cross"** Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend - © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

New International Version - Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they

King James Version - Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. 34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Greek New Testament - Matthew 12:33-37

33 Ἡ ποιήσατε τὸ δένδρον καλὸν καὶ τὸν καρπὸν αὐτοῦ καλόν, ἢ ποιήσατε τὸ δένδρον σαπρὸν καὶ τὸν καρπὸν αὐτοῦ σαπρὸν· ἐκ γὰρ τοῦ καρποῦ τὸ δένδρον γινώσκεται. 34 γεννήματα ἐχιδνῶν, πῶς δύνασθε ἀγαθὰ λαλεῖν πονηροὶ ὄντες; ἐκ γὰρ τοῦ περισσεύματος τῆς καρδίας τὸ στόμα λαλεῖ. 35 ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος ἐκ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ θησαυροῦ ἐκβάλλει ἀγαθὰ, καὶ ὁ πονηρὸς ἄνθρωπος ἐκ τοῦ πονηροῦ θησαυροῦ ἐκβάλλει πονηρά. 36 λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι πᾶν ῥῆμα ἀργὸν ὃ λαλήσουσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἀποδώσουσιν περὶ αὐτοῦ λόγον ἐν ἡμέρᾳ κρίσεως. 37 ἐκ γὰρ τῶν λόγων σου δικαιωθήσῃ, καὶ ἐκ τῶν λόγων σου καταδικασθήσῃ.

Sermon Notes

Matthew 12:33-37

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The Tree Is Known By Its Fruit"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

"The fruit of the branch is really traceable to the root... It is the source of every atom of fruitfulness..." Charles Spurgeon, *Sermon on Hosea 14:8*, February 28, 1864

Church Life Notes

Today - February 25, 2024

1. **Second Sunday of Lent:** Today is the second Sunday of Lent, a season of forty weekdays, leading up to Easter Sunday, March 31. Calling to mind the forty days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we will be reflecting on the reality of our sinfulness and mortality, and Christ's sinlessness and mercy. As part of our reflection, please take a copy of MPC's 2024 Lenten Advisory.
2. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is James Woods. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is Larry Perry.
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 I 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:** Interested men meet **on Tuesday evenings at the church** to study Jimmy Davis' ***Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life***. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
8. **Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance:** Please join us for this long-time MPC favorite, set for 5:30pm on Saturday, March 2! Everyone is invited to cook their best chili recipe and bring it to the church to share in a friendly competition. We will also enjoy great old-time Square Dancing with a professional caller. Sign-ups are available in the lobby.
9. **Lenten Forum:** Please join us on Saturday, March 16, at 10:00am, in Room D-3 at the church, as we reflect on "Loving Preparations." Local attorney Mark Sutherland will speak on wills, and Wayne Baxter from North Dallas Funeral Home will speak on funerals.

News & Needs

10. **Life Change:** February's special Life Change offering will go to support Paul Miller and Metanoia Prison Ministry (a ministry of the PCA through Mission to North America). Their mission is to engage, educate, and equip the church for the discipleship, mentoring, and reintegration of prisoners. The Life Change basket will be in the back of the sanctuary this week. If you prefer, you can write a check with "Life Change" written in the memo line, or you can give online via Realm.
11. **Human Coalition Partnership:** MPC is supporting the pro-life activities of Human Coalition as they reach out to needy families. Watch for flyers around the church.
12. **Safeguarding Committee:** MPC is committed to being a community that is free of sexual harassment. If you are harassed at church, contact **Diane Kizziar** (972-213-5391, dianekizziar@gmail.com) or **Paul Hartgrove** (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).

High Fives & Thanks

13. **Fellowship Team:** Thanks and high fives to Kristen McAnally who has planned the upcoming Chili Cook-Off and to Haniel and Emily Cuevas who will be taking responsibility for fellowship going forward.

Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **MPC Ruling and Teaching Elders** - For God's blessing on RE's Bill Camp, Rick Carruth, John Fowler, Paul Hargrove, Larry Perry, James Woods, and TE Bill Lovell..
 - **Church Finances** - For God's provision.
16. **For One Another:**
 - **Health Issues** - For God's blessing on Yvonne Alford (Bill Lovell's friend), Connie Bielefeld (Margaret Marrs' grandmother), Kerry Buswell, Colton & Maurane Huckaby, Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Max Kizziar, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Marcia Livingston (David Wamsley's sister), Ruth Lerner (Elinor Hites' sister), Ariel Lopez, Ashley Marble, Alana Marion, Jeannie Marion (Mike Marion's stepmom), Mike Marion, Tom Mayfield, Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Carol Revell, Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Marlene Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on Lydia Judith and new mom and dad, Madeleine and Caleb Esmond.

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 - \$2,686; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$238,924; and projected giving to-date - \$268,077. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



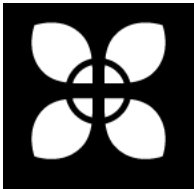
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org!

The Session (Elders)

Rick Bajema
Bill Camp
Rick Carruth
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Bill Lovell
Larry Perry
James Woods

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas
Vianny D'Souza
Will Grover
Brian Ray



Bill Lovell
Laura Stites
Nick Rhodes
Will Grover
Joseph Marble
Paul Hartgrove
Diane Kizziar

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Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director
Safeguarding Committee
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