

METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The King & His Kingdom

**Morning Worship with Holy Baptism
Easter Sunday
March 31, 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 22:27-28

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

Unison: For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.

We Respond To God's Call

Easter Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Unison: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Trinity Hymnal #277

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!

Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!

Christ has burst the gates of hell; Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise; Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once He died, our souls to save; Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise; Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!

Praise to Thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!

Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!

Hail, the Resurrection, Thou! Alleluia!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme - "The King & His Kingdom: The King Rises"

Theme Verses - Matthew 28:5

[T]he angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay."

Hymn - "Thine Be the Glory"

Trinity Hymnal #274

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where Thy body lay.

(Refrain)

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. **(Refrain)**

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without Thee: aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above. **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession

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.

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 - "Up From the Grave He Arose"

Trinity Hymnal #276

Low in the grave He lay –
Jesus, my Savior,
Waiting the coming day –
Jesus, my Lord.

(Refrain)

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed –
Jesus, my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead –
Jesus, my Lord. **(Refrain)**

Death cannot keep his prey –
Jesus, my Savior;
He tore the bars away –
Jesus, my Lord. **(Refrain)**

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

Please greet those around you in the name of the resurrected Christ.

Hymn - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Trinity Hymnal #296

All Hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of All.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of All.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of All.
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of All.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of All.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of All.

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 28:1-6

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: Thanks be to God.

Understanding and Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The King & His Kingdom: The King Rises"

We Share in the Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction of the Covenant Child

Instruction on Baptism

Review of God's Covenant Promises

Acts 2:39 - For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

Genesis 17:7 - And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Acts 16:31 - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Examination & Profession of Faith

Leader: Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Parents: We do.

Leader: Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?

Parents: We do.

Leader: Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon God's grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Parents: We do.

Commitment by the Congregation

Leader: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Unison: We do.

Children in the congregation are invited to come forward to watch the baptism.

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Prayer for the Newly Baptized

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 - "For All the Saints"

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
To Thee, by faith, before the world confess;
Thy name, oh Jesus, be forever blessed.
Hallelujah, hallelu...

Oh may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the Victor's crown of gold.
Hallelujah, hallelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Hallelujah, hallelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl, streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

God Sends Us Out With His Blessing

Blessing - Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

"**Christ the Lord is Risen Today**" Words by Charles Wesley. "**Thine Be the Glory**" Words by Edmond Budry, Tr. by Richard B. Hoyle, Music by George Frederick Handel – Lyrics © 1923 World Student Christian Federation. Used by Permission. "**Up from the Grave He Arose**" Words and music by Robert Lowry, 1874. "**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**" Words by Edward Perronet and John Rippon, music by Oliver Holden. "**For All the Saints**" © 1997 Christopher Miner Music, words by William Walsham How, music by Christopher Miner. CCLI License #451603.

Sermon Text

English Standard Version - Matthew 28:1-6

28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and His clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of Him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you."

Sermon Notes

Matthew 28:1-6

Pastor Bill Lovell

"The King & His Kingdom: The King Rises"

Sermon Series: "The King & His Kingdom"

Church Life Notes

Today - March 31, 2024

1. **Easter Sunday:** Today we are reflecting in a special way on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. MPC youth will be assisting with music and other aspects of the service, and MPC children will help open our time of praise.
2. **Holy Baptism:** This Easter morning, we are welcoming to our covenant family **Lydia Judith Esmond**, infant daughter of Madeleine and Caleb Esmond, as we celebrate the sacrament of baptism. For centuries, early in the life of the church, Christian baptisms were traditionally performed on Easter!
3. **Serving Today:** Our scheduled Liturgy Leader is Jay Marble. Our scheduled Prayer Leader is James Woods. Our scheduled Preacher is Pastor Bill Lovell.
4. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Please plan to stay today after church for a simple Easter Egg Hunt. Kids of all ages are welcome. Just gather in the hallway across from the Sanctuary outside the Nursery.
5. **Giving Online:** To access our secure online giving portal, you may use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.
6. **MPC Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. Enjoy Easter Sunday with your family, and we'll see you next week!

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** - Highly interactive study of "The Gospel According to Isaiah"—led by Will Grover.
8. **Women's Bible Study:** MPC's Women's Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Tuesday nights at the church to study 1 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).
9. **Men's Book Group:** Interested men meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm the church to study Jimmy Davis' *Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life*. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205 - paul.hartgrove@gmail.com).
10. **Monthly Play Date:** On the first Friday of each month, MPC moms and little ones are invited to a monthly play date. Our next one is scheduled for Friday, April 5, at 10:00am, at Ashley Marble's home (3108 Frio Rd, Oak Point, TX).

11. **Women's Ministry:** On Saturday, April 13, at 10:00am, all women and young ladies (4th grade and up) are invited to a Spring Tea hosted by our Women's Ministry here at the church. Dress in your Sunday best and bring a plate of savory or sweet snacks to share. For reservations or to host a table, please RSVP via the sign-up sheets in the lobby or contact Liz Withers (design.pr@verizon.net, 214-236-9616).

News & Needs

12. **Sexual Harassment Policy:** Our Session recently adopted a policy designed to keep Metrocrest free of sexual harassment. Copies of the policy are available in the Lobby. 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. **Expectant Moms and Dads:** We are so excited for Dorian & Joseph Marble, Rachelle & Ben Fant, Olivia & Avery Berg, and Maurane & Colton Huckaby

Prayer Requests

14. **For The World:**
 - **Kings and All Who Are in High Positions** - For God to give wisdom and discernment to government leaders here in the US and around the world, so that "we might lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2).
 - **Armed Conflicts** - For God's mercy on the suffering people in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Yemen, and Haiti.
15. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
 - **Our Youth and Children** - For God's blessing on each of them that they might grow in Christ, especially Lydia Esmond who is being baptized today.
 - **Church Finances** - For God's generous 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, Jim Huckaby (Colton Huckaby's grandfather), Max Kizziar, Suzanne Larsen, Cherry Leslie, Ruth Lerner (Elinor Hites' sister), Ariel Lopez, Ashley Marble, Alana Marion, Mike Marion, Tom Mayfield, Ryan & Dianna Muller (friends of Alana Marion), Kristen Novak (Steve & Liz Wallin's daughter), Carol Revell, Phyllis Sayes (Dawna Guzak's mom), Chip Sayers, David Wamsley, Lori Winn, and Norm Winn; and also for God's blessing on expectant couples, Dorian & Joseph Marble, Rachelle & Ben Fant, Olivia & Avery Berg, and Maurane & Colton Huckaby.

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 - \$7,217; weekly giving goal - \$7,885; actual giving to-date - \$282,266; and projected giving to-date - \$307,500. Please be as generous as you can in your personal stewardship, and please pray for God's faithful provision.



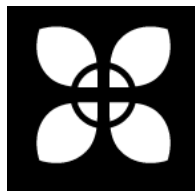
Let's get connected! MPC uses an app called Realm to allow you to update your personal information, communicate with groups and teams, follow church announcements, look up members, manage online giving, and join events. To get started, contact us at info@metrocrestchurch.org

The Session (Elders)

Rick Bajema
Bill Camp
John Fowler
Paul Hartgrove
Bill Lovell, Moderator
Larry Perry, Clerk
James Woods

The Board of Deacons

Dalton Dallas, President
Vianny D'Souza, Clerk
Will Grover, Treasurer
Brian Ray



Bill Lovell

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

Pastor

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Music Director
Treasurer
Youth Director
Safeguarding Committee
Safeguarding Committee

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