



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship  
Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost  
September 24, 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 103:1-5

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**Unison: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**Unison: Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Leader: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

## We Respond To God's Call

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### Opening Hymn - "O Lord, by Grace Delivered"

Trinity Hymnal #626

O Lord, by grace delivered,  
I now with songs extol;  
My foes You have not suffered  
To glory o'er my fall.  
O Lord, my God, I sought You,  
And You did heal and save;  
You, Lord, from death did ransom  
And keep me from the grave.

His holy name remember;  
You saints, Jehovah praise;  
His anger lasts a moment,  
His favor all our days;  
For sorrow, like a pilgrim,  
May tarry for a night;  
But joy the heart will gladden  
When dawns the morning light.

In prosp'rous days I boasted:  
Unmoved I shall remain;  
For, Lord, by Your good favor  
My cause You did maintain.  
I soon was sorely troubled,  
For You did hide Your face;  
I cried to You, Jehovah;  
I sought Jehovah's grace.

What profit if I perish,  
If life You do not spare?  
Shall dust repeat Your praises,  
Shall it Your truth declare?  
O Lord, on me have mercy,  
And my petition hear;  
That You may be my helper,  
In mercy, Lord, appear.

My grief is turned to gladness,  
To You my thanks I raise,  
Who have removed my sorrow  
And girded me with praise;  
And now, no longer silent,  
My heart Your praise will sing;  
O Lord, my God, forever  
My thanks to You I bring.

### **Acknowledging God's Presence**

#### **Worship Theme - "Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins"**

##### **Theme Verses - Matthew 9:5-7**

[Jesus said], "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he rose and went home.

##### **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 victory cry. **(Refrain)**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering 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.

## 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, Ye Sinners"**

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity joined with power.  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more;  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more.

Come, ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy;  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call;  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam;  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The incarnate God, ascended,  
Pleads the merit of His blood;  
Venture on Him, venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good;  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

## We Profess Our Faith And Pray

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### **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 - "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"**

Trinity Hymnal #535

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me  
Is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore;  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best:  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to 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.**

## **Prayer of Intercession**

# We Receive God's Word

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## **Reading God's Word - Matthew 9:1-8**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins"**

Sermon Series - "The King & His Kingdom"

# We Respond To God's Grace

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## **Closing Hymn - "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"**

Trinity Hymnal #76

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like me, His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him;  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress.  
Praise Him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him;  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him;  
Widely as His mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,  
Blows the wind and it is gone;  
But while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise the High Eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
You behold Him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him;  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## 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.

**"O Lord, by Grace Delivered"** Music arr. by Arthur S. Sullivan. **"The Power of the Cross"** Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend - © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. **"Come, Ye Sinners"** Words by Joseph Hart, Music arr. LW Brodine. **"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"** Words by Samuel Trevor Francis, Music by Thomas John Williams. **"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"** Words by Henry F. Lyte, Music by John Goss. CCLI License #451603.



# Sermon Text

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## English Standard Version - Matthew 9:1-8

1 And getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to His own city.  
2 And behold, some people brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed.  
And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart,  
My son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And behold, some of the scribes said  
to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." 4 But Jesus, knowing their  
thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is  
easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 6 But  
that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive  
sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go  
home." 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they  
were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to  
men.

# Sermon Notes

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## Matthew 9:1-8

Pastor Bill Lovell

### "Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins"

#### Bringing People to Jesus

#### Everyone's Greatest Need

Dick Lucas - *"There is no blessing this side of glory that is greater than the forgiveness of our sins, for it means reconciliation with God, not something we work to achieve all our life long, but a gift of grace for today from which we live in gratitude and service."*

#### "What Sort of Man Is This?"

# Church Life Notes

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## Today - September 24, 2023

1. **Eighteenth 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. **Serving Today:** This morning's scheduled Liturgy Leader is John Fowler. 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. 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.
5. **Youth Medical Release Forms:** Administrative Assistant, Laura Stites, will be here before youth group this evening to notarize our 2023-2024 medical release forms. All youth group members must have a form on file to participate in youth group activities.
6. **Marriage Seminar Planning Meeting:** MPC is planning a marriage seminar. As we put it together, we would like to know the topics you would like to see covered. Please join us for a pizza lunch planning session following this morning's service, to discuss what topics and approaches are desired.

## 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*.
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.

## News & Needs

10. **Facility Use:** All facility use inquiries **must** be submitted through the church office to Administrative Assistant Laura Stites (laura@metrocrestchurch.org, 972-394-1122) via our Facility Use Application. This form is available in the Lobby, and beginning next week, online. For questions, please contact the church office.

## High Fives & Thanks

11. **Welcome to the Bergs and the Esmonds:** Please join us in welcoming MPC's newest communing members, Avery and Olivia Berg, and Caleb and Madeleine Esmond!

## Prayer Requests

12. **For The World:**
  - **Those Who Do Not Know Jesus** - For God's mercy on all those who endure the greatest, most desperate need of not knowing God's Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior.
13. **For Our Church's Mission and Ministry:**
  - **Mission Heartedness** - For God to grant MPC a deep and deepening love for our family, friend, and neighbors, and a desire for them to know and worship Jesus.
  - **Youth Group** - For God's blessing on Youth Director Joseph Marble, his leadership team, and all the group members.
14. **For One Another:**
  - **Family of Fran McCann** - For God's mercy on the family of a dear friend of Kathy Collinsworth, who passed away last week.
  - **Colton Huckaby and Maurane Gisiger** - For God's blessing on this MPC couple as they celebrate their civil marriage ceremony in Gex, France, next Saturday, September 30.
  - **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 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 two months into the new fiscal year (July-June): Last week's giving - \$4,611; our weekly giving goal - \$7,885; our actual giving to-date - \$74,824; and our projected giving to-date - \$94,615. 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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<b>Joseph Marble</b>	<i>Youth Director</i>	<i><a href="mailto:joseph@metrocrestchurch.org">joseph@metrocrestchurch.org</a></i>

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

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