



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

Responsive Call to Worship from Ps. 92:1-4

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
Unison: To sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
Leader: To declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
Unison: And Your faithfulness by night,
Leader: To the music of the lute and the harp,
Unison: To the melody of the lyre.
Leader: For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
Unison: At the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All;
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh;
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save,
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay;
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His, and He is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till He returns or calls me home;
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

Christ Came to Save Sinners

Theme Verses

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15-16

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly.
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high,
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'till the storm is past.
Safe into the haven guide,
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
Help from Thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head;
The shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name;
I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am,
Thou full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
Let me take of Thee.
Spring Thou up within my heart,
To all eternity.

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 69-71

Leader: How does holy baptism signify and seal to you that the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross benefits you?

Unison: **In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it gave the promise that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and Spirit wash away the impurity of my soul, that is, all my sins.**

Leader: What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

Unison: **To be washed with Christ's blood means to receive forgiveness of sins from God, through grace, because of Christ's blood, poured out for us in His sacrifice on the cross. To be washed with His Spirit means to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and sanctified to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and lead a holy and blameless life.**

Leader: Where has Christ promised that He will wash us with His blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

Unison: **In the institution of baptism, where He says: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. This promise is repeated where Scripture calls baptism the washing of rebirth and the washing away of sins.**

“O Love of God, What Can I Sing?”

What miracle of sovereign grace,
What spectacle of might,
That I, though born in enmity,
Though wicked in Your sight,
Should be an object of Your love,
And in that love made new;
That this rebellious heart should be
So filled with love for You.

(Refrain)

O love of God, what can I sing;
What sacrifice of praise
Could ever worthily I bring,
What great hosannas raise;
What great hosannas raise?

Could I, by strength or will my own,
Raise myself from the grave?
Or could I pardon my own guilt?
Have I such pow'r to save?
I lay under the weight of sin,
Unwilling to be free,
And only by my Savior's love
Has freedom come to me. **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude towards life, our callousness towards suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of Your wise and gracious law. Help us change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what You love, and do what You command.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on 1 John 1:8-9

Leader: Hear the good news! If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Know that if you are a believer in Jesus, God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

Unison: **Thanks be to God.**

“Jesus Paid it All”

Trinity Hymnal #308

I hear the Savior say,
“Your strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in me your all in all.”

(Refrain)

Jesus paid it all;
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find
Your power, and Yours alone,
Can change the leper’s spots,
And melt the heart of stone. **(Refrain)**

For nothing good have I
Whereby Your grace to claim –
I’ll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. **(Refrain)**

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,”
My lips shall still repeat. **(Refrain)**

Old Testament Reading – Deuteronomy 6:4-13

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

Lord's Prayer

Unison: 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.

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word – Acts 17:1-21

Applying God's Word

Bill Camp

"Against All Opposition"

Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our web site

We Respond To God's Grace

Investing In God's Work (continue in silent prayer)

Closing Song – **"Be Thou My Vision"**

Trinity Hymnal #642

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower;
Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Benediction

Postlude and Meditation

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Sermon Text: Acts 17:1-21

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” ⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Sermon Title: Against All Opposition

I. The Trouble in Thessalonica

II. The Berean Example

III. The Futility of Worldly Wisdom

Living the Metrocrest Vision – Announcements for the Week

Our Mission: *In dependence on Christ, we worship God the Father, grow in the grace of His Son, and serve our community and the world in the power of His Spirit.*

To do this, we strive as a community to **Worship, Walk, and Work** together.

Opportunities for Worship

- **November 1, 2020:** Join us Interim Pastor Paul Miller continues his sermon series *Encountering Christ*.
- **Life Change** for the month of October will help support MPC missionaries serving in Ireland, Tom and Vicki Gilliam.
- **Youth Ministry:** Tonight, *The Gathering*, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6:00 - 7:30pm at the church. This week, we will begin our discussion of the Gospel Centered Life. This study builds on itself each week and paints a beautiful picture of how we can make the gospel real and alive in our lives. It helps us identify how we really view ourselves and God.
- **Tabletalk Devotions** are available in the lobby free of charge to aid in your personal, daily worship of God. If you'd like a copy mailed to you, please contact Laura at the church office.

Opportunities to Walk and Work Together

- **Elders' Prayer Time:** Our Elders would like to invite you to pray with them, individually or as a group, on **Sunday mornings at 9:30** in the MPC multipurpose room. On the first Sunday of each month, **beginning November 1st**, we'll have corporate prayer for the needs and ministries of the church at 9:15, also meeting in the multipurpose room. We look forward to joining with you in prayer!
- **Women's Ministry:** On **Tuesdays from 10-11am**, there will be a **Ladies' Prayer Time** hosted by Gwen Sterenberg via Zoom. More details and the Zoom meeting invitation are available via Realm, or you may contact the church office for details.
- **Men's Book Group:** Who has poured into your life with a positive impact? Who has helped you grow in your spiritual walk? How have others helped you? We all need examples to learn how to help others, to be encouraged and to be an encourager, and to build up others. We have the book for you... ***The Mentor Leader by Tony Dungy***. To give you a little taste of the book here's a short quote from Coach Dungy: "Remember that mentor leadership is all about serving. Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)." Let's learn practical ways to build each other up with an eternal perspective of serving one another. We are meeting via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, and it's not too late to join! Please contact Paul Hartgrove (paul.hartgrove@gmail.com, 972-816-2205) for more information.

- **Care Groups** are still meeting throughout the week and month. Please reach out to your care group leader for more details.

Coming Soon

- **Christian Community Action:** Once again, we'll be partnering with CCA to provide gifts to children and families that are in need. This year, CCA anticipates there will be an even greater need, so gift collections are going to start in November. Please stay tuned for more information on how you can help serve!

Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you have a prayer request that you'd like to share, please click [here](#).

Investing in God's Work:

Last Week's Offering:	\$ 4,325	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 110,496
October Total Giving:	\$ 13,067	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 84,233

Difference to date + or - (- **\$26,263**)

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$359,090, our monthly giving should meet or exceed \$29,924, which comes to about \$6,906 per week. Our budget fiscal year is July 2020 - June 2021.



Let's get connected! **Realm** allows 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 and we will help you get on your way!

Paul Miller
Laura Stites
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The Session (Elders)
Bill Camp
Troy Carter
David Sheets
James Woods

The Diaconate
Bill Greisser
Daniel Greisser
Tom Owen
Steve Thomas