



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. 149:1-4

Leader: Praise the LORD!

Unison: Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Leader: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

Unison: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Leader: Let them praise His name with dancing,

Unison: Making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

Leader: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;

Unison: He adorns the humble with salvation.

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven’s praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come!
Look to Christ who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
See the Father’s plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him;
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
How unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes.

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

Rest for the Lowly

Theme Verses

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt 11:28-30

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Trinity Hymnal #457

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the Mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 93

Leader: What is the law of the LORD?

Unison: **God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

Trinity Hymnal #253

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away,

Washed all my sins away.
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Your flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing your pow'r to save,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave,
Lies silent in the grave,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, Your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.
Be saved to sin no more,
Be saved to sin no more,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty and most merciful God, 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. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may live a holy, just, and joyful life to the glory of Your holy name.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.

**Responsive Assurance of Pardon
Based on Rom. 5:6-8**

Leader: Hear the good news! While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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.**

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.**

Baptism of Mary Jane Frances Laird (see Pages 10-11)

“10,000 Reasons”

Bless the Lord O my soul; O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Refrain)**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger;
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **(Refrain)**

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending;
Ten thousand years and then forever more. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Elder – Bill Camp

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word – Philippians 2:1-11

Applying God's Word

Bill Lovell

“Being Born in the Likeness of Men”

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 – **“Go Tell it On the Mountain”**

Trinity Hymnal #224

(Refrain)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **(Refrain)**

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. **(Refrain)**

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Benediction

Postlude and Meditation

Sermon Text: Philippians 2:1-11

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Sermon Title: Being Born in the Likeness of Men

- I. Humbled (vv 6-8)

- II. Exalted (vv 9-11)

- III. Have this mind (vv 1-5)

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” Words and Music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker – © 2013 Love Your Enemies Publishing. All rights reserved. Used with Permission. **“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”** Words by Robert Robinson, Music by Asahel Nettleton. **“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”** Words by William Cowper, Music by Lowell Mason. **“10,000 Reasons”** Words and music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman – © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs, Sixsteps Music, Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI Song #6016351. **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** Spiritual, anonymous. CCLI License # 451603.

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

- **January 3, 2020:** Join us as Bill Lovell continues preaching in Philippians.
- **Life Change** for the month of December will assist the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund. The Ministerial Relief Fund assists needy, retired, and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows, and dependent children.
- **Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. Enjoy the holidays with your family!
- **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 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!
- **Care Groups** are still meeting throughout the week and month. Please reach out to your care group leader for more details.
- **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.
- **Year End Giving:** If you have not completed your year-end contributions to the church, they must be placed in the offering basket, given online, or postmarked by **December 31, 2020** to be included on your 2020 giving statement. **Please see Realm for more details**, including how you can give stock. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity!

Coming Soon

- On Saturday, **January 9th at 9:00am** we will be taking down decorations and are in need of a few extra people to help us out. Please contact Daniel Greisser or Laura at the church office if you are available to help or have any questions.

The Baptism of Mary Jane Frances Laird

December 27, 2020

Instructions

We celebrate this morning the baptism of Mary Jane Frances Laird, born to Grace and Brian Laird on October 3, 2020. Mary Jane and her family will come forward when directed. With sensitivity to the dangers of COVID-19, we will be taking care to keep Mary Jane and her family safe.

Introduction of the Laird Family and Guests

Review of Covenant Promises

These promises are specially addressed to the parents of Mary Jane Laird who today present their little one to be baptized. We also admonish all that are present to look back to your own baptism, to repent of your sins against your covenant with God, to stir up your faith, and to deepen and make proper use of your baptism and of the covenant sealed between God and your eternal soul.

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?

Congregation: We do.

Administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Mary Jane Frances, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer for the Newly Baptized

Welcome Card Please take a few moments to fill out the Welcome Card in your program and place it in the offering basket later in the service. We would love to know that you worshipped with us today.

Investing in God's Work:

Last Week's Offering:	\$ 14,486	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 172,650
December Total Giving:	\$ 23,377	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 148,349
Difference to date + or - (- \$24,301)			

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!

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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

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