



**METROCREST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# The King and His Kingdom

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 26, 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

### Responsive Call to Worship from Psalm 145:1-4

Leader: I will extol You, my God and King,

**Unison: And praise Your name forever and ever.**

Leader: Every day I will bless You

**Unison: And praise Your name forever and ever.**

Leader: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

**Unison: And His greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader: One generation shall commend Your works to another,

**Unison: And shall declare Your mighty acts.**

## We Celebrate The Resurrection

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### “How Great Thou Art”

Trinity Hymnal #44

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder;  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

#### (Refrain)

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **(Refrain)**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. **(Refrain)**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! **(Refrain)**

# Acknowledging God's Presence

## Worship Theme

Him Who is True

## Theme Verses

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20

## “Jesus, I Come”

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,  
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows, into Thy balm,  
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
Out of distress, into jubilant psalm,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into Thy blessed will to abide,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
Out of despair into raptures above,  
Upward forever on wings like a dove,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the joy and light of Thy home,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

# We Confess Our Sins

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## Prayer of Confession

**Unison:** Righteous God, though our sins testify against us, have mercy on us. Though our love is often weak and directed toward that which does not glorify You, have mercy on us. Though we go through seasons of backsliding and doubt, have mercy on us. Forgive us, O Lord, for in Christ You have redeemed us, for Your name's sake. Forgive us, and renew us, that we may truly do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with You.

*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.**

## 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.**

## "Revelation Song"

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Holy, holy is He.  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat. **(Repeat)**

## **(Refrain)**

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come.  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of Kings;  
You are my everything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color;  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder.  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be  
To You the only wise King. **(Refrain)**

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,  
At the mention of Your name.  
Jesus Your name is power; breath and living water;  
Such a marvelous mystery. **(Refrain)**

### **Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 20-22**

**Leader:** Are all men, then, saved by Christ just as they perished through Adam?

**Unison:** **No. Only those are saved who by a true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all His benefits.**

**Leader:** What is true faith?

**Unison:** **True faith is a sure knowledge whereby I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in His Word. At the same time it is a firm confidence that not only to others, but also to me, God has granted forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation, out of mere grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits. This faith the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel.**

**Leader:** What, then, must a Christian believe?

**Unison:** **All that is promised us in the gospel, which the articles of our catholic and undoubted Christian faith teach us in a summary in the Apostles' Creed.**

### **Greeting**

#### **"How Firm a Foundation"**

Trinity Hymnal #94, verses 1-4, 6

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;  
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to His foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

**Prayer of Intercession** - MPC Elder - Larry Perry

## We Reflect On God's Word

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**Reading God's Word - Matthew 5:33-37**

**Understanding and Applying God's Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"Truth and The Kingdom"**

Sermon Series: "The King and His Kingdom"

*Sermons can be listened to, or downloaded, through our website*

## We Share in the Sacrament of Baptism

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**Introduction of the Rhodes Family**

**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.

**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 his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his 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 him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him 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.*

## **Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism**

### **Prayer for the Newly Baptized**

## We Respond To God's Grace

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### **Giving to Support Gospel Ministry**

#### **“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”**

How deep the Father's love for us;  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life;  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ;  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

# We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

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## Closing Blessing

## Postlude and Meditation

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# Sermon Text

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## English Standard Version - Matthew 5:33-37

<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

## Greek New Testament - Matthew 5:33-37

<sup>33</sup> Πάλιν ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἐρρέθη τοῖς ἀρχαίοις, Οὐκ ἐπιορκήσεις, ἀποδώσεις δὲ τῷ κυρίῳ τοὺς ὄρκους σου. <sup>34</sup> ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν μὴ ὀμόσαι ὅλως: μήτε ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ, ὅτι θρόνος ἐστὶν τοῦ θεοῦ: <sup>35</sup> μήτε ἐν τῇ γῆ, ὅτι ὑποπόδιόν ἐστιν τῶν ποδῶν αὐτοῦ: μήτε εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ὅτι πόλις ἐστὶν τοῦ μεγάλου βασιλέως: <sup>36</sup> μήτε ἐν τῇ κεφαλῇ σου ὀμόσης, ὅτι οὐ δύνασαι μίαν τρίχα λευκὴν ποιῆσαι ἢ μέλαιναν. <sup>37</sup> ἔστω δὲ ὁ λόγος ὑμῶν ναὶ ναί, οὐ οὐ: τὸ δὲ περισσὸν τούτων ἐκ τοῦ πονηροῦ ἐστίν.

# Sermon Notes

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## Matthew 5:33-37

Pastor Bill Lovell

“Truth and The Kingdom”

# Church Life Notes

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## Today

1. **Have a Blessed Lent!** Today is the fifth and last Sunday of Lent 2023. During this season of repentance, we have joined Christians around the world in reflecting on sin, death, and our own mortality. Next Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Palm Sunday, when we will reflect on the cross of Christ.
2. **Welcome to Our Guests!** We are excited you are here. Members of the Welcome Team will be looking for you to say hi.
3. **Holy Baptism:** We are delighted this morning to baptize Christian Alejandro Rhodes, who was born December 18<sup>th</sup>. Christian's mom and dad, Nick and Raquel, are active members of Metrocrest. We join them in welcoming their family and friends.
4. **Annual Lenten Advisory:** Each Lent, MPC distributes a series of important reminders. Today is the last day to pick up your copy in the Lobby.
5. **Prayer Requests:** You can share your prayer requests in either of two ways: (1) use one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) point your smartphone camera at the QR code on the back of this morning's program to access a digital card. Please indicate whether your request is private or public.
6. **Prayer Meeting:** Join us around 12:15 for our weekly Prayer Meeting in Room D-03.
7. **Tools for Bible Study:** Intern Colton Huckaby is leading a new program to introduce interested church members to tools that will help them lead Bible study in Care Group and other discipleship settings.
8. **MPC Youth Ministry:** Tonight, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6-8 pm 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 5:15 pm. If you have questions, please reach out to our Youth Group Coordinator, Joseph Marble (joseph@metrocrestchurch.org).

## Upcoming Activities & Events

9. **Holy Week at Metrocrest**
  - **April 6, 2023** – Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm
  - **April 7, 2023** – Good Friday Service, 6:00 pm
  - **April 9, 2023** – Easter Sunday Service, 10:15 am
10. **Children and Youth Sunday School:** MPC Children and Youth will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
11. **Adult Sunday School:** Adult Sunday School WILL Meet on Easter Sunday. We will have ONLY Kuerig coffee available before and after the class.
12. **Men's Book Group:** Please join us at the church on **Tuesday evenings at 7 pm** as we study *Grace at Work* by PCA Pastor Bryan Chapell. For more info, contact Paul Hartgrove (972-816-2205, paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Christian Stewart (480-370-8968, c.r.stewart1993@gmail.com).

13. **Discovering Metrocrest:** Interesting in joining MPC? Please ask Pastor Bill Lovell about setting up a new members class on an upcoming Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

## News & Needs

14. **New Music Director:** Congratulations to MPC's new Music Director Nick Rhodes, who will begin work on April 1 with a period of transition.
15. Life Change for the month of March will go to support **MNA Disaster Response - Sheds of Hope**, a project in which teams go to a property that has been destroyed and build a permanent structure that the family will own to store their belongings while their home is being restored.
16. **Hospitality Team:** Offering coffee and refreshments before and after Sunday School is a Metrocrest tradition. Hospitality Team Leader Diane Kizziar needs volunteers to work a few Sundays per quarter. This is a simple, do-able ministry that makes a great impact! Please speak to Diane to sign up.
17. **Budget Update:** The Treasurer working alongside Church leadership has found reductions to the 2022-2023 budget. Expenditures have been reduced by \$31,140. This change is also reflected in the giving numbers shown on the back of the service bulletin. If there are questions, please speak with the Treasurer, Deacon Will Grover.

## High Fives & Thanks

18. **Welcome, Opaline Pilgrim:** Dusty and Kara Pilgrim, who joined Metrocrest when we united with Christ Church Carrollton, are very pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter named Opaline Violet, on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:46 pm. She was a healthy 8.23 lbs, 18.5 inches.

**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?** Metrocrest is a praying church! You can now share your prayer requests in either of two ways: (1) use one of the cards found in the lobby; or (2) point 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.

**Thank you for your financial support! To fund our mission and ministry, Metrocrest depends on God's generous provision through you.**

Last Week's Giving: \$11,090

Projected Giving to Date: \$358,170

Actual Giving to Date: \$317,936

Difference to date: + or – (- \$40,234)

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$532,738, our weekly offering should meet or exceed \$10,245. Our budget fiscal year is July 2022 - June 2023. For stewardship assistance, you may contact the Treasurer at [treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org).



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](mailto:info@metrocrestchurch.org) and we will help you get on your way!

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**Bill Lovell**  
**Laura Stites**  
**Colin Deay**  
**Will Grover**  
**Joseph Marble**

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**The Session (Elders)**

John Fowler  
Paul Hartgrove  
Larry Perry

**The Board of Deacons**

Dalton Dallas  
Will Grover  
Josh Wyman