



METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



April 11, 2021

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 Psalm 33:6-9

Leader: Our soul waits for the LORD;
Unison: He is our help and our shield.
Leader: For our heart is glad in Him,
Unison: Because we trust in His holy name.
Leader: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
Unison: Even as we hope in You.

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed”

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice,
To conquer every sting of death –
Sing, sing hallelujah!

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ’s disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King –
Christ, Christ He is risen!

(Refrain)

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.
Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah!

Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of grace,
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting. **(Refrain)**

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace –
Go, tell of His goodness! **(Refrain)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

Celebrating the Resurrection

Theme Verses

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:19-21

"Nothing But the Blood"

Trinity Hymnal #307

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(Refrain)

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my pardon this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

Nothing can for sin atone;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

This is all my hope and peace:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

Now by this I'll overcome:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I'll reach my home:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(Refrain)**

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from Your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before Your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to You and ask that You forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear Your voice telling us that His blood is our peace, His death our freedom, His smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that Your service is perfect freedom.

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.**

“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.

We Profess our Faith

Apostles' Creed

Unison:

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.

“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.

Personal Testimony – Larry Perry

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Elder – James Woods

We Reflect On God's Word

Reading God's Word – Acts 17:22-34

Applying God's Word

Pastor Bill Lovell

“The Mission to Athens: The Unknown God”

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

We Commune At God's Table

Invitation To The Lord's Table – 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

Please come forward by rows, using the aisle to your right, then return using the aisle to your left. When all have been served, we will partake together. We offer both grape juice and, in the outer ring of each tray, in tinted cups, wine. Please dispose of cups in the receptacles at the back.

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Unison: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Unison: It is right for us to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Unison: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory to You, O Lord, most high.

Leader: Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Words of Institution

Holy Communion

We Respond To God's Grace

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

Closing Song – “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

Trinity Hymnal #679

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, “thus saith the Lord.”

(Refrain)

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
’Neath the healing, cleansing flood! **(Refrain)**

Yes, ’tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace. **(Refrain)**

I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end. **(Refrain)**

We Are Commissioned With God’s Blessing

Closing Blessing

Postlude and Meditation

“**Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed**” Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Ed Cash – © 2012 Capitol CMG Paragon, Getty Music Publishing. All rights reserved. “**Nothing but the Blood**” Words and music by Robert Lowry. “**In Christ Alone**” Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend – © 2001 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI Song # 3350395. “**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**” Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Greg Thompson – © 2000 Greg Thompson Music, All Rights Reserved. “**’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**” Words by Louisa M.R. Stead, Music by William J. Kirkpatrick. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text: Acts 17:22-34

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

"In him we live and move and have our being";

as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed his offspring."

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Sermon Title: The Mission to Athens: The Unknown God

Outline:

I. The Unknown God (vv 22-23)

II. The Apostolic Prescription (vv 24-31)

III. The Ridiculousness & the Reasonableness of the Resurrection (vv 32-34)

Life at Metrocrest – Announcements for the Week – 4/11/21

Our Mission: *To discover the love of God and share it with others.*

Today

1. **Happy Easter:** The resurrection of Jesus Christ is far too glorious and far too meaningful to remember on just one day! So, traditionally, there is a whole season—fifty days—from Easter to Pentecost—during which we will reflect on, and specially celebrate, Jesus' conquest of death. *Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*
2. **The Power of Testimony:** This year, during Easter, just before the Intercessory Prayer and the Sermon, we will be inviting members of the church to come forward to share their personal testimony of life in the resurrected Christ.
3. **Updated COVID Policy:** In compliance with guidance from the State of Texas, the Session at MPC strongly encourages, but does not require, face coverings at church. As operating restrictions have been removed, the Session may add additional chairs in the sanctuary. The Session intends to continue to provide an online worship option via Facebook Live, as well as a mask-requested space in the Multi-Purpose Room.
4. **Youth Ministry:** Tonight, *The Gathering*, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, will meet from 6:00 - 7:30pm at the church. Due to ongoing remediation, we'll meet in the sanctuary.
5. **Officer Nominations:** The Session presents the following names for the congregation's consideration for nomination to church office—To serve on the Session, Larry Perry; to serve on the Board of Deacons, Dalton Dallas, Will Grover, Justin Sterenberg, and Josh Wyman. These men have been trained and determined to be qualified for office according to the Scriptures. Biographical material is forthcoming. The MPC bylaws were suspended at a congregational meeting in March to allow the nomination of candidates who transferred to MPC from CCC. Nominations will be accepted until Sunday, April 25. Nominations are to be submitted on the form provided. On one form, you may nominate one, some, or all of those listed. Completed nomination forms should be deposited in the designated box in the lobby. God willing, elections will be held at a called congregational meeting on Sunday, May 30. Please pray for God's direction.

Upcoming Activities & Events

6. **Fellowship Team Formed:** The Session has authorized the creation of a new ministry team, led by Joe and Kristen McAnally and Steve & Liz Withers, to begin organizing fellowship opportunities for our church family. Watch for details.

7. **Interested in Membership?** Please let Pastor Bill Lovell know so we can organize a **Discovering Metrocrest Class** on an upcoming Saturday morning, TBD, from 9-Noon. Here is the opportunity to learn more about our church and what makes us tick, with special reference to our community, our history, and our theological distinctives. You can contact Pastor Bill by phoning the church office (972-394-1122), via email at bill@metrocrestchurch.org, or letting us know on your welcome card.
8. **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.
9. **Upcoming Men's Event:** All men of Metrocrest are invited to participate in **MPC's Spring Men's Event, next Saturday, April 17th**. We will begin with a virtual breakfast at 8:30 AM, and then at 9 AM each man will use his own computer to participate in "Arise with the Guys," an online conference for men, being live streamed from Grace Church, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The featured guests will be Tony Dungy (Pro Football Hall of Fame) and Dabo Swinney (Head Football Coach at Clemson). We will follow-up with discussion at a later date. For info, contact Paul Hartgrove (paul.hartgrove@gmail.com) or Jeff Colvin (jeffreycolvin@yahoo.com). For more details or to RSVP, please visit Realm.

News & Needs

10. **Sunday School:** *With remediation and restoration rapidly drawing to a resolution after last month's flood in the Sunday School wing, we're counting the days until MPC can re-open our Christian education program for kids, teens, and adults. Stay tuned for more information!*
11. **Water Damage:** MPC had a burst pipe which damaged the hall and classrooms to the left of the lobby. Please bear with us while it is under repair.
12. **Life Change** for the month of **April** will 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.

High Fives & Thanks

13. Big thanks to the Fowler and Sterenberg families for hosting the 2021 MPC Easter Egg Hunt!
14. Thank you to our treasurer Steve Thomas, the Deacons, the Session, team leads, and staff for their hard work preparing our budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Please click [here](#) to fill out our Welcome Card or to submit a prayer request. We would love to know that you worshipped with us today!

Investing in God's Work:

Last Week's Offering:	\$ 9,910	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 276,240
March Life Change	\$ 260	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 282,132
		Difference to date + or -	(+ \$5,892)

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!

Bill Lovell
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The Session (Elders)
Bill Camp
Troy Carter
David Sheets
James Woods

The Board of Deacons
Bill Greisser
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