



**METROCREST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Exploring Acts

Truth that Transforms

**May 2, 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

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### Responsive Call to Worship from Ps. 145:1-4

Leader: I will extol You, my God and King,  
**Unison: And bless 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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### “Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands.  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heaven He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because a sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me;  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace!  
One in Himself, I cannot die;  
My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

## Acknowledging God's Presence

### Worship Theme

Preaching the Good News

### Theme Verses

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Romans 10:14-15

### **"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

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### Prayer of Confession

**Unison:** Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against You. We confess that while You have faithfully reached out to us, we have been reluctant to heed Your call. We confess that we have too often ignored Your invitation to love, to follow, to serve. We confess that we have too often pretended that we were healthy when we knew in our hearts we needed You to heal us. Forgive us and open our hearts to Your love. Open our hands and open our eyes for opportunities to serve You.

*Silence is kept for personal reflection and confession.*

### Responsive Assurance of Pardon Based on 1 Pet. 2:24

**Leader:** Hear the good news! Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds You have been healed.

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.

## “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 113-115

- Leader: What does the tenth commandment require of us?  
Unison: **That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any of God's commandments should ever arise in our heart. Rather, with all our heart we should always hate all sin and delight in all righteousness.**
- Leader: But can those converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?  
Unison: **No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with earnest purpose they do begin to live not only according to some but to all the commandments of God.**
- Leader: If in this life no one can keep the ten commandments perfectly, why does God have them preached so strictly?  
Unison: **First, so that throughout our life we may more and more become aware of our sinful nature, and therefore seek more eagerly the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach the goal of perfection.**

### **“He Will Hold Me Fast”**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life’s fearful path,  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

#### **(Refrain)**

He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight; Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He’ll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. **(Refrain)**

For my life He bled and died; Christ will hold me fast.  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life; He will hold me fast.  
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last.  
**(Refrain)**

**Prayer of Intercession** – MPC Elder – Bill Camp

## We Reflect On God’s Word

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**Reading God’s Word** – Acts 19:1-10

### **Applying God’s Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

#### **“The Mission to Ephesus: The Missional God”**

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

## We Respond To God’s Grace

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**Investing In God’s Work** (continue in silent prayer)

### Closing Song – **“O Church Arise”**

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;  
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.  
For now the weak can say that they are strong,  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth  
We’ll stand against the devil’s lies;  
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war to love the captive soul,  
But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,  
We will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on every side,  
We know the outcome is secure.  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,  
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen.  
And as the stone is rolled away  
And Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,  
Give grace for every hurdle;  
That we may run with faith, to win the prize  
Of a servant, good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way,  
Retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day  
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

## We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

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### Closing Blessing

### Postlude and Meditation

**"Before the Throne of God Above"** Words and music by Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook - © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship. All rights reserved. CCLI song # 2306412. **"There is a Fountain Filled with Blood"** Words by William Cowper, Music by Lowell Mason. **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** Words by Robert Robinson, Music by Asahel Nettleton. **"He Will Hold Me Fast"** Words and music by Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker - © 2013 Getty Music Publishing, Matthew Merker Music. All rights reserved. CCLI song # 7016161. **"O Church Arise"** Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend - © 2005 Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI song #4611992. CCLI License # 451603.

**Life at Metrocrest – Announcements for the Week – 5/2/21**  
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. 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. **Picnic in the Park:** You are invited to bring a picnic lunch after church today for a time of Christian fellowship, across the street at Oak Hills Park (1210 E Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton TX 75010). Think simple, low-key, Christ-centered! Also, note: Here's a really good opportunity to get to know the candidates for church office. They're being specially invited! Come, hear from them, and share your thoughts about MPC—while the kids romp!
5. **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.

## Upcoming Activities & Events

6. **Round One of Our Acts 2:46 Suppers**, set tentatively for **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**: We will soon be asking for volunteers to host simple, low-key suppers, like in Acts 2:46, where adult members of MPC can get to know each other. Save the date—**June 12<sup>th</sup>**—and watch for further 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](mailto: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. **Women's Ministry:** Calling all women of MPC - On **Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, we'd like to invite you to The Grind Burger Bar (2500 King Arthur Blvd. #100 The Colony. 75056) for our Ladies Night Out! There will be great food, fellowship, and conversation. We hope to see you there!
10. **Worship Night:** On **May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, there will be meeting together for an evening of songs and hymns, followed by a time of fellowship. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing, come ready with your suggestion!
11. **Called Congregational Meeting:** On **Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather in the church immediately following worship for the purpose of electing additional officers. The eligible candidates who have been nominated are: for MPC Elder, Larry Perry; and, for MPC Deacon, Dalton Dallas, Will Grover, Justin Sterenberg, and Josh Wyman. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

## News & Needs

12. **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. We're hoping to have **Sunday school classes begin next weekend, May 9<sup>th</sup>.***
13. **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.
14. **Life Change** for the month of **May will support Reformed University Fellowship International at The University of Texas at Dallas.** RUF-I at UTD is an organization that seeks to welcome international students and scholars. They understand how important studies are, but they also know that students come to the U.S. for more than a degree! They seek to help students experience the local community and culture, develop lasting friendships with people from all over the world, and learn about the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

## High Fives & Thanks

15. **Fellowship Team:** As COVID concerns slowly begin to abate, Joseph & Kristen McAnally and Steve & Liz Withers have done a great job re-launching MPC's fellowship program—including today's Picnic in the Park and the upcoming Acts 2:46 Suppers. Thank you!

## **Sermon Text: Acts 19:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

<sup>8</sup> And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

### **Sermon Title: The Mission to Ephesus – The Missional God**

I. The Missional God

II. God's Missional Church

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:	\$ 6,077	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 296,958
April Total Giving:	\$ 45,022	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 313,026
Difference to date + or – ( + \$16,068)			

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

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**Bill Lovell**  
**Laura Stites**  
**Colin Deay**  
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**The Session (Elders)**  
Bill Camp  
Troy Carter  
David Sheets  
James Woods

**The Board of Deacons**  
Bill Greisser  
Daniel Greisser

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