



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. 71:17-19

Leader: O God, from my youth You have taught me,
Unison: And I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.
Leader: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
Unison: Until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.
Leader: Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
Unison: You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“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)**

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

The LORD is merciful and gracious

Theme Verses

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will

not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:6-12

“Abide with Me”

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile.
And, though rebellious and perverse, meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee;
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight; tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting death? Where grave Thy victory?
I triumph still – abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism, Q+A 29-30

Leader: Why is the Son of God called *Jesus*, that is, Savior?

Unison: **Because He saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.**

Leader: Do those who seek their salvation or well-being in saints, in themselves, or anywhere else, also believe in the only Savior Jesus?

Unison: **No. Though they boast of Him in words, they in fact deny the only Savior Jesus. For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Savior, or those who by true faith accept this Savior must find in Him all that is necessary for their salvation.**

“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: Lord Jesus, no day of my life has passed that has not proved me guilty in Your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart; praise has often been praiseless sound. My best services are filthy rags. All things in me call for my rejection; however, all things in You plead my acceptance. Grant that I may hear Your voice assuring me that You were made sin for me that I might be made righteous in You. Enable me to rest in Your righteousness and walk in newness of Your Spirit.

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.**

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Trinity Hymnal #92

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood,
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He:
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure:
One little Word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let good and kindred go –
This mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Prayer of Intercession

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 9:1-19a

Applying God's Word

Dr. Paul Fowler

"The Conversion of Saul"

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

We Commune At God's Table

(based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV)

Leader: Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this in remembrance of Me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Great Prayer of 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 thanks and praise.

Prayer for the Work of the Spirit

Leader: Hear us now as we pray that prayer the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray together, 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.

Preparing the Bread and Cup

Please come forward, when indicated to do so, to partake in the Lord's Supper.

We Respond To God's Grace

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

Closing Song – **"We Will Feast in the House of Zion/**

Doxology”

We will feast in the house of Zion,
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things”, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
Upheld, protected, gathered up. **(Refrain)**

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
My soul be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh, how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength. **(Refrain)**

Ev'ry vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring shalom. **(Refrain)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Benediction

Postlude and Meditation

“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. **“Abide with Me”** Words by Henry Lyte, alt. by Justin Smith, Music by Justin Smith – © 2007 Justin Smith Music. Used by permission. All rights reserved. **“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”** Words by William Cowper, Music by Lowell Mason. **“A Mighty Fortress”** Words and Music by Martin Luther, tr. by Frederick H. Hodge. **“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”** Words and music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore - © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music. All Rights Reserved. CCLI song # 7041364. **“Doxology”** Words by Thomas Ken, Music by Louis Bourgeois. CCLI License # 451603.

Sermon Text: Acts 9:1-19a

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; 19 and he took food and was strengthened.

I. Totally Unexpected, 1-2

II. Totally Undeserved, 3-9

III. Totally Surrendered, 10-19a

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

- **May 31, 2020:** Join us as our Director of Music and Worship, Colin Deay, preaches on Acts 9:19b-31.
- **Life Change** for the month of May will support **Third Millennium Ministries**. Their goal is to provide Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry by publishing and globally distributing a free multilingual, multimedia, digital seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian and Spanish.
- **Youth Ministry:** There will be no youth group activities this evening. Enjoy Memorial Day weekend with your family!
- **Tabletalk Devotions** are available 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

- **Women's Ministry:** On **Tuesdays from 10-11 AM**, there will be a **Ladies' Prayer Time** hosted by Gwen Sterenberg via Zoom. Enjoy some coffee and a time to pray with other ladies from the church all in the comfort of your own home. More details and the Zoom meeting invitation are available via Realm, or you may contact the church office for details.
- **Care Groups** are still meeting throughout the week and month. Please reach out to your care group leader for more details.
- **Men's Book Study:** Our book study has adjourned for the summer. Stay tuned for details about our next group that will be starting in the fall!
- **Staff Search Committee:** Please be in prayer for our staff search committee, and that God will bring the right candidate to our church.

Coming Soon

- **Women's Ministry:** Join us this summer as we study the book of Ephesians virtually with all of the ladies in the PCA. For information on signing up and on purchasing a study book, please go to <https://pcacdm.org/hbs/> or to Realm.

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:	\$ 4,113	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 360,491
May Total Giving:	\$ 12,936	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 347,555

Difference to date + or - (- \$12,936)

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$407,508, our monthly giving should meet or exceed \$33,959, which comes to about \$7,837 per week. Our budget fiscal year is July 2019 - June 2020.



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 Fowler
Laura Stites
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The Session (Elders)
Bill Camp
Troy Carter
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The Diaconate
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