



# METROCREST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**September 12, 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 Psalm 62:5-8

Leader: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
**Unison: For my hope is from Him.**  
Leader: He only is my rock and my salvation,  
**Unison: My fortress; I shall not be shaken.**  
Leader: On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
**Unison: My mighty rock, my refuge is God.**  
Leader: Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him.  
**Unison: God is a refuge for us.**

## We Celebrate The Resurrection

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### “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Trinity Hymnal #295

Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon the throne.  
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;  
Behold His hands and side;  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace,  
Whose pow'r a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
Absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end;  
And round His pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime:  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity.

## **Acknowledging God's Presence**

### **Worship Theme**

Trust in the Name of the LORD

### **Theme Verses**

Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving might of His right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:6-7

#### **“Only a Holy God”**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.

#### **(Refrain)**

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only;  
Cry out, sing holy; forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God. **(Refrain)**

Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God.  
Only a Holy God. **(Refrain)**

# We Confess Our Sins

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## Prayer of Confession

**Unison:** Heavenly Father, According to Your great faithfulness, have mercy upon us, for none of us has followed You as we should. We have often walked in darkness, ashamed to be in the light. We have taken too lightly the joy of Your salvation, and have walked according to the pleasures of this world, rather than the pleasures of Your presence. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive us. Lead us in the light, as You are in the light, that we may have fellowship with You and with one another, and that the blood of Jesus may cleanse us from all sin.

*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.**

## “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Trinity Hymnal #254

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my Sovereign die!  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree!  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut His glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died  
For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears;  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away,  
'Tis all that I can do.

## We Profess our Faith

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### **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.

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Deacon – Daniel Greisser

## We Reflect On God's Word

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**Reading God's Word** – Acts 27:1-44

**Understanding & Applying God's Word**

Pastor Bill Lovell

**"The Great Journey"**

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

## We Commune At God's Table

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**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.**

### **“Behold the Lamb”**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,

Slain for us: and we remember:

The promise made that all who come in faith

Find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this Bread of life,

And we drink of His sacrifice,

As a sign of our bonds of peace

Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

Torn for you: eat and remember

The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,

Paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this Bread of Life,

And we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of love

Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you: drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith  
We rise to respond: and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering,  
We proclaim: Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King.

### **Words of Institution**

### **Holy Communion**

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

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

#### **"Jesus Messiah"**

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness.  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross;  
Love so amazing! Love so amazing!

#### **(Refrain)**

Jesus Messiah, name above all names,  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel,  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven,  
Jesus Messiah; Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine,  
Broken and poured out all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn;  
Love so amazing! Love so amazing! **(Refrain)**

All our hope is in You. All our hope is in You.  
All the glory to You, God; the Light of the world. **(Refrain)**

# We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

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## Closing Blessing

## Postlude and Meditation

### Sermon Text: Acts 27:1-44

<sup>1</sup> And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. <sup>2</sup> And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. <sup>3</sup> The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. <sup>4</sup> And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. <sup>5</sup> And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. <sup>6</sup> There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board. <sup>7</sup> We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. <sup>8</sup> Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, <sup>10</sup> saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." <sup>11</sup> But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. <sup>12</sup> And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

<sup>13</sup> Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. <sup>14</sup> But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. <sup>15</sup> And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. <sup>16</sup> Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat. <sup>17</sup> After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along. <sup>18</sup> Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo. <sup>19</sup> And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup> When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

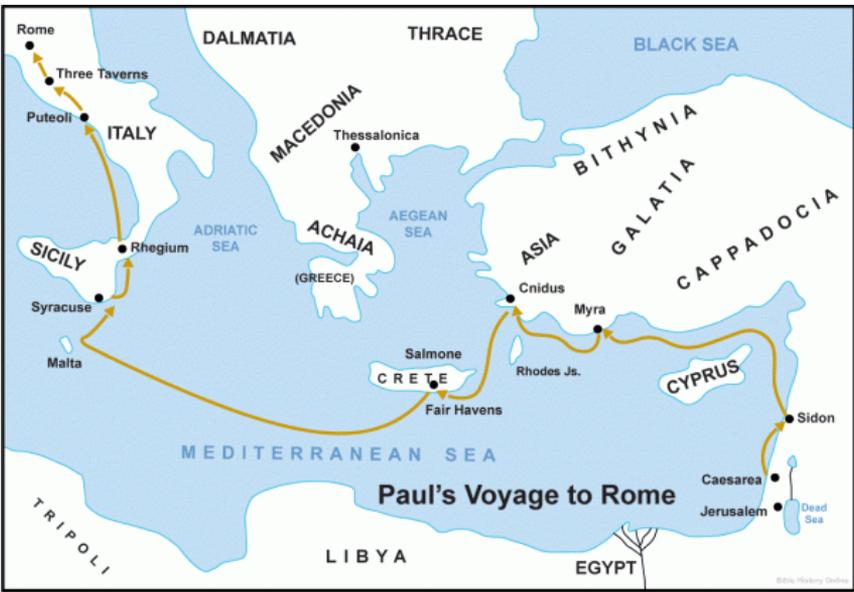
<sup>21</sup> Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. <sup>22</sup> Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. <sup>23</sup> For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, <sup>24</sup> and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ <sup>25</sup> So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. <sup>26</sup> But we must run aground on some island.”

<sup>27</sup> When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. <sup>28</sup> So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. <sup>29</sup> And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. <sup>30</sup> And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, <sup>31</sup> Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

<sup>33</sup> As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. <sup>34</sup> Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.” <sup>35</sup> And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup> Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. <sup>37</sup> (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) <sup>38</sup> And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

<sup>39</sup> Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. <sup>40</sup> So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. <sup>41</sup> But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. <sup>42</sup> The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, <sup>44</sup> and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

“**Crown Him with Many Crowns**” Words by Matthew Bridges, Music by George J. Elvey. “**Only a Holy God**” Words and Music by Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson – © 2016 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Integrity's Praise! Music. All rights reserved. “**Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**” Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Hugh Wilson, Arr. by Robert A. Smith “**Behold the Lamb**” Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend – © 2006 Thankyou Music/Adm. by worshiptogether.com songs excl. “**Jesus Messiah**” Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, and Jesse Reeves – © 2008 Sixsteps Music. All rights reserved. CCLI Song # 5183443. CCLI License # 451603.



**Sermon Title: The Great Journey**  
**Notes:**

## Life at Metrocrest – Announcements for the Week – 9/12/2021

*Discovering God's love and sharing it with others.*

### Today

1. **Today is the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost:** Pentecost is the longest season of the church calendar, running this year for 27 weeks! From now until Advent, we will be reflecting on Christian discipleship.
2. **Youth Medical Release Forms:** Please note that ALL students need to have an updated 2021-2022 medical release form on file to participate in "Roctober" and other youth activities. **Administrative Assistant, Laura Stites**, will be here **TODAY** to notarize the forms immediately following worship.
3. **Welcome, Hope Korean Presbyterian Church:** MPC is delighted to be hosting our sister congregation, Hope KPCA, as they reach out to Korean speakers in our neighborhood. Please pray for Pastor Gu Kwang Lee and Associate Pastor Min Lee.
4. **Youth Ministry:** Tonight, *The Gathering*, our large group meeting for all middle and high school youth, meets from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the church. We'll be continuing our study of the Old Testament Kings.

### Upcoming Activities & Events

5. **Adult Bible Class: Adult Bible Class 1**, taught by Elder James Woods in Room D-04, is continuing a study of the Gospel of Mark. **Adult Bible Class 2**, led by Deacon Will Grover in Room D-03, is continuing a study of C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity."
6. **Children & Youth Sunday School:** Children and Youth meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 9am.
7. **Women's Ministry:** Ladies' Prayer Time has changed! On **Wednesdays 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.
8. **Christian Community Action: CCA's food pantry is resuming in person activities!** Join us **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 - 8:00pm as we help with shopping, bagging, loading cars, and working the registers. We need about 8-10 volunteers. CCA is located at 200 South Mill Street in Lewisville. Stay tuned for more details via Realm.
9. **Men's Ministry:** Please join us for a **BBQ lunch** at the Fat Cow BBQ (850 Valley Ridge Blvd., Suite #128, Lewisville) on **Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30am. You will be treated with great conversation and food. Please register on Realm or contact Paul Hartgrove at (972)816-2205 or at paul.hartgrove@gmail.com.
10. **Care Group Sunday:** Next **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**, MPC will recognize our church's network of small groups and Bible studies. We will pray for them and their leaders and members. This will also be a good Sunday to sign up for a Care Group if you want to join one.

11. **The next round of Our Acts 2:46 Suppers** is set for **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**. You may sign up to host or be a guest at simple, low-key suppers like in Acts 2:46. The purpose of these suppers is for adult members of MPC to get to know each other. Sign-ups will be available in the lobby this weekend, and on Realm beginning next week. The deadline to sign up is September 19<sup>th</sup>.
12. **Save the Date:** On **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**, we'll be celebrating our anniversary picnic at Gussie Field pavilion in Farmers Branch. Stay tuned for more details!
13. **Youth Ministry:** The Presbytery's annual "**Roctober**" Youth Retreat is coming up on **Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. We'll be back at Camp Copass, and we'll arrive Friday evening and leave Saturday evening. The cost per student is \$85, and includes lodging, three meals on Saturday, and a T-shirt. This year, the speaker will be Joe Deegan, the Worship Resource Coordinator at RYM. The link for registration is available via Realm. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Marble (jay@metrocrestchurch.org) or call the church office. See below for important information on updated medical release forms.

## News & Needs

14. **Life Change** for the month of **September** will be dedicated to our own **Colton Huckaby** who headed to London, England, to attend the Cornhill Training Course. Cornhill teaches aspiring pastors and teachers the skills for competent Biblical exposition. Their motto is to both "get it right and get it across." He hopes this course will equip him in his daily walk, his work in the Church, and guide him in the direction God has for his future! The Life Change basket will be in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer, you can write a check with "Life Change" written in the memo line or you can give online via Realm.
15. **During the month of September, we'll be partnering with Polser Elementary to help them supply children with new winter coats!** There will be tags available with specific details (size and gender) located on the Missions table in the lobby. Please take as many tags as you'd like and purchase a new coat for a child in need! If you have any questions, please call or text Kathleen Barclay at 214-693-8687.

## High Fives & Thanks

16. **Thanks from Pastor Bill:** Pastor Bill Lovell took personal leave last week to help his son Will and Will's wife Paige begin a semester of Business School at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland, and also to celebrate Bill's very dear friend Dick Lucas' 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. He extends thanks to the Session and everyone at MPC for providing leave time and to Colin Deay for preaching last Sunday in his absence.

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:	\$ 13,688	Projected Giving to Date:	\$ 89,173
August Life Change:	\$ 827	Actual Giving to Date:	\$ 96,790
Difference to date + or - (+ \$7,617)			

In order to fund our annual operating budget goal of \$463,700, our monthly giving should meet or exceed \$38,642, which comes to about \$8,971 per week. Our budget fiscal year is July 2021 - June 2022.



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**  
**Steve Thomas**  
**Jay Marble**

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**The Session (Elders)**  
Bill Camp  
Troy Carter  
Larry Perry  
David Sheets  
James Woods

**The Board of Deacons**  
Dalton Dallas  
Daniel Greisser  
Will Grover  
Justin Sterenberg  
Josh Wyman