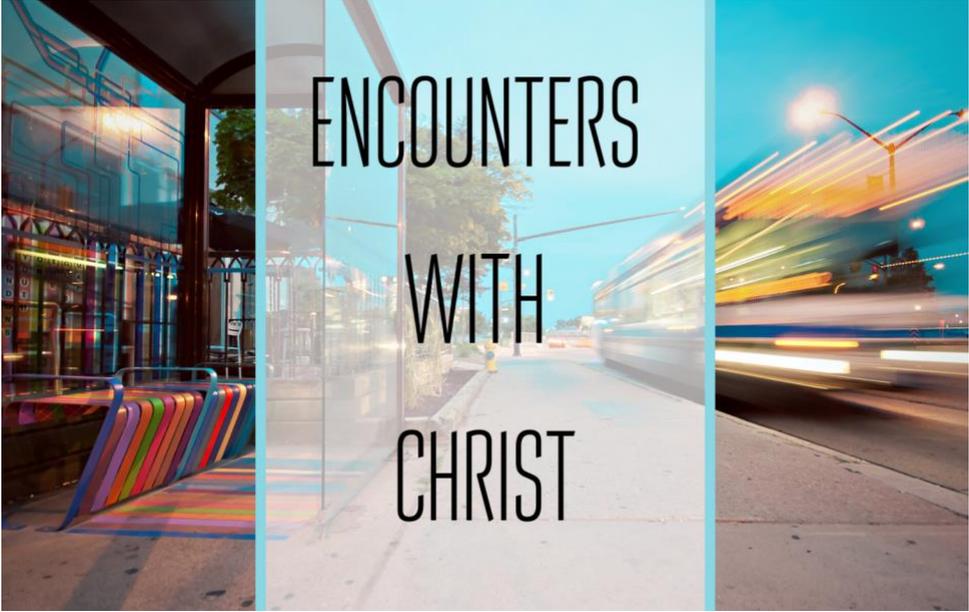


METROCREST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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. 57:7-11

Leader: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!
Unison: I will sing and make melody!
Leader: Awake, my glory!
Unison: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!
Leader: I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;
Unison: I will sing praises to You among the nations.
Leader: For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
Unison: Your faithfulness to the clouds.
Leader: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Unison: Let Your glory be over all the earth!

We Celebrate The Resurrection

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Trinity Hymnal #115, verses 1, 2, 5

All Creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness:
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Acknowledging God's Presence

Worship Theme

Jesus our Sacrifice

Theme Verses

Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:11-14

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Trinity Hymnal #164

O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim;
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

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.

“Restless Until I Rest in You”

How many idols have I held,
Adoring, lifeless in my hands –
What wayward hymns my lips have spelled,
To feel the love my soul demands.
This longing heart, these restless fists,
Unsatisfied by loves untrue,
In jealous searching still persist –
Restless until they rest in You.

My great desire, may it be,
Not wealth that dims and with me dies;
No good from all my work I see,
A treasure fading from my eyes.
In living waters, endless streams,
Blossoming in this desert place,
Sustain the heart that fondly dreams
In glory to behold Your face.

That glory, can this world obscure?
And can I in my wand'ring leave?
Sorrow for sin I still endure,
And wonder whether You forgive.
I long to know those blood-washed stains.
I long to see these heavens new.
I know a Sabbath still remains;
Restless until I rest in You.

We Confess Our Sins

Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises

**declared unto the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant,
O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may live a
holy, just, and joyful life to the glory of Your holy name.**

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.

“Rock of Ages”

Trinity Hymnal #499

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-7, 13

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Prayer of Intercession – MPC Elder – James Woods

We Reflect On God’s Word

Reading God’s Word – John 1:19-29

Applying God’s Word

Paul Miller

“Encountering Christ’s Atonement”

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 remain seated while the communion servers distribute the bread and grape juice. When all have been served, we will partake together.

We Respond To God's Grace

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

Closing Song – **"To God Be the Glory"**

Trinity Hymnal #55

To God be the glory; great things He has done!
So loved He that world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the lifegate that we may go in.

(Refrain)

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. **(Refrain)**

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **(Refrain)**

We Are Commissioned With God's Blessing

Benediction

Postlude and Meditation

"All Creatures of Our God and King" Words by Frances of Assisi, tr. by William H. Draper – © 1926 G. Schirmer, all rights reserved. **"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason. **"Restless Until I Rest in You"** Words and music by Colin Deay – © 2020 Colin Deay Music, all rights reserved. **"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"** Words by Augusts Toplady, arr. by Thomas Cotterill, Music by Thomas Hastings. **"To God Be the Glory"** Words by Fanny J. Crosby, Music by William H. Doane. CCLI License # 451603.

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

- **September 20, 2020:** Join us as Elder Bill camp continues in the book of Acts.
- **Life Change** for the month of September will support Court Barclay, MPC missionary serving in the Middle East.
- **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. This week, we will begin our discussion of the Gospel Centered Life. This study builds on itself each week and paints a beautiful picture of how we can make the gospel real and alive in our lives. It helps us identify how we really view ourselves and God.
- **Tabletalk Devotions** are available in the lobby 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. More details and the Zoom meeting invitation are available via Realm, or you may contact the church office for details.
- **Men's Book Group:** Who has poured into your life with a positive impact? Who has helped you grow in your spiritual walk? How have others helped you? We all need examples to learn how to help others, to be encouraged and to be an encourager, and to build up others. We have the book for you... ***The Mentor Leader by Tony Dungy***. To give you a little taste of the book here's a short quote from Coach Dungy: "Remember that mentor leadership is all about serving. Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)." Let's learn practical ways to build each other up with an eternal perspective of serving one another. We will have our first virtual meeting on **Tuesday, September 8 at 7pm via Zoom**. Please sign up on Realm or contact Paul Hartgrove for more information.
- **Care Groups** are still meeting throughout the week and month. Please reach out to your care group leader for more details.
- **Christian Community Action:** On the third Wednesday of the month, we have the opportunity to serve CCA's drive through pantry. They are limiting volunteers at this time, so no additional help is needed. Please continue to pray for CCA as they minister to the community and stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities.

Sermon Text: John 1:19-29

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Sermon Title: Encountering Christ's Atonement

Notes

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:	\$	6,325	Projected Giving to Date:	\$	69,060
September Total Giving:	\$	6,325	Actual Giving to Date:	\$	53,825

Difference + or - (- \$15,235)

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!

Paul Miller	<i>Interim Pastor</i>	<i>pastor@metrocrestchurch.org</i>
Laura Stites	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	<i>laura@metrocrestchurch.org</i>
Colin Deay	<i>Director of Music and Worship</i>	<i>colin@metrocrestchurch.org</i>
Steve Thomas	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>treasurer@metrocrestchurch.org</i>
Teresa Abood	<i>Women's Ministry</i>	<i>info@metrocrestchurch.org</i>
Jay Marble	<i>Youth Ministry</i>	<i>jay@metrocrestchurch.org</i>



The Session (Elders)

Bill Camp
Troy Carter
David Sheets
James Woods

The Diaconate

Bill Greisser
Daniel Greisser
Tom Owen
Steve Thomas
