

# The Worship of God

Christmas +9

February 24, 2019

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF GATHERING

Scott Stearman  
Pastor

*Congregation read the bold print*

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## CHORAL INTROIT

## CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Katherine Hawker

Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey,  
**Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.**  
Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,  
**Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.**  
Strength is turning a cheek,  
**Strength is loving an enemy.**  
Strength is saying, "I forgive you."  
**We come to worship a God who redefines our vision of strength.**

## INVOCATION

Maren Holmen  
Deacon

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 334

*Blessed Assurance*

## GREETING ONE ANOTHER

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mark Prehn  
Food Justice Coordinator

*Updates about Metro and our community ministry, Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries.  
Guests are welcomed to fill out a card so that we may have a record of your visit.  
Optional childcare is provided for children. Leaders can be found at the back.*

## COVENANT OF CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Tiffany Triplett Henkel  
Pastor

## HYMN #261

*Wonderful Words of Life*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Luke 6:27-38

Ken Jennings  
Scott Stearman

## MEDITATION

**But for Forgiveness**

Scott Stearman

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## OFFERTORY

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all good gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## CHORAL ANTHEM

## REFLECTION ON FORGIVENESS

Living Well Graduate

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tiffany Triplett Henkel

God, we are so conditioned to respond in kind.  
We are so worried that when the reckoning comes,  
we will find ourselves left with the short end of the stick.  
And not without reason.  
The powerful take and take and lie and lie  
and oppress and oppress  
seemingly without consequence.

Teach us to love with skill.  
Teach us to love with precision.  
Teach us to love with abandon,  
trusting that when we step into  
the ocean of your abundant love  
we will receive the blessings of your abundant life. Amen.

Silent Confession

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Metro Congregation

Hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Go forth into the world as one transformed by God's love and mercy.

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT #479

*Children of God*

*If you would like to formally join our community of faith or profess something  
publicly about your journey of faith, we invite you to speak to a pastor at this time.*

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**If you need assistance, please find the staff  
member wearing a black polo shirt.**

**This Week's Host: Mark Prehn  
This Week's Deacon: Maren Holmen  
This Week's Usher: Connie Brown**

## Homecoming Seeking Mentors for Spring Semester

We are currently seeking caring, compassionate, and committed individuals to serve as mentors for the participants of RMM's Homecoming Program for Veterans who have experienced homelessness. The mentor's role is simply to commit to show up (about six times during the semester), listen and encourage their partners. No expertise is required, just patience, understanding and a desire to support someone. Please reach out to Lesley-Ann, [lhixtomme@cbf.net](mailto:lhixtomme@cbf.net), if you would like to volunteer as a mentor or would just like more information about the role or program.

## Hell's Kitchen South Coalition Meeting - February 27 at 6:30pm

Join us Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30 PM at Metro Baptist Church for a full report and discussion on the Neighborhood Plan that's been developed. This is an important meeting for our community to ensure our priorities are heard and set as the Port Authority moves into the next steps of the bus terminal expansion project. So we need YOUR input! Any and all are welcome. Light snacks will be provided.

## Coming Up

Feb 27  
March 2  
March 6  
March 10

March 15  
March 17  
March 23  
March 30

HK South Coalition Meeting  
Club Metro: Mixed Ballroom Social  
Ash Wednesday  
First Sunday of Lent  
Upstart Creatures Reading  
Fight With Your Art – A Cancer Benefit  
Classical Meets Broadway  
Celebrating Women Composers  
Celebrating Women Composers

## Let's Elevate! Building Holy Hospitality for the next 35 years!

Since 1984, Metro Baptist Church has carried out life-giving ministries in this vibrant but challenging area of Hell's Kitchen. We've opened our space 24/7 in a building that is over a century old and that is almost hostile to those who are challenged by steps. In an effort to ensure that our ministries, our educational and arts programs, our HK Farm Project (etc.) are able to flourish we've embarked on architectural and financial feasibility studies. Copies of the architect's report are in back. If you'd like to know more about this effort please speak to one of the pastors. Opportunities to be engaged in the financial feasibility will be coming up in March.

**Club Metro: Mixed Ballroom Social**  
Saturday, March 2, 8:00 – 11:00pm  
\$20 at the door (discount for Metro members). Refreshments provided.



**Upstart Creatures Presents The Ladies of the Corridor**  
Sunday, March 10  
Includes a multi-course meal. FREE. BYOB.

**Fight With Your Art: A Cancer Benefit Cabaret**  
Friday, March 15, 7:30 – 9:00pm  
\$15 suggested donation at the door  
100% of the proceeds will benefit the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the foremost cancer research hospitals in the world.

**Classical Meets Broadway**  
March 17, 3:00pm  
\$20 suggested donation at the door  
Concerts for Compassion, in collaboration with Metro Baptist Church and Judson Memorial Baptist Church, present a Fundraiser for the New Sanctuary Coalition.

**Celebrating Women Composers**  
March 23 and March 30, 7:00 – 10:00pm, Q+A to follow  
\$20 general admission, \$15 seniors/students/groups of 10+ (cash only)  
Presented by Abby London-Crawford

**Laura Bergquist and Cecelia Stearman in Concert**  
May 5, 6:00pm, More details to come  
Directed by Scott Koonce