

Midway Hills  
Christian Church



September 29, 2024  
11 A.M. Worship Service

**Gathering Meditation**

“Our every instinct as humans is toward idolatry, to close and protect our own projects and possessions. But God calls us to a larger and more frightening space, God’s own creation, revealed to us in the others we encounter every day. When we obey the call to faith, to an openness to God as disclosed through God’s creation, and let go for the moment of our projects and possessions by which we want to define ourselves, we experience both the thrill and terror of freedom.” - Johnson, Luke Timothy. “The Life of Faith and the Faithful Use of Possessions”

# Order of Worship

## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

### Welcome

Rev. Laurie Anderson

## The Community Gathers

### Prelude

*It is Well with my Soul*

arr. Martha Mier

### \*Call to Worship

John Nation

One: Through Moses, God said,

**All: "Let my people go."** (Exodus 9:1)

One: In scripture, the law declares:

**All: "In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts."** (Deut. 15:1)

One: With grace, Jesus said:

**All: "Give one coat away."** (Luke 3:11)

One: With honesty, Jesus taught:

**All: "Sell what you have, give that money to the poor."** (Matt. 19:21)

One: Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,  
Dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

**All: So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.  
May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that  
we can walk freely with God.**

One: Let it be so.

**All: Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn 288

*O God of Vision*  
(verses 1-3)

LOBE DEN HERREN

### Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

## The Community Responds

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Laurie Anderson

### The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Offering Moment

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

# The Community Proclaims God's Word

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:16-22

John Nation

Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. Also, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. (NRSVUE)

Sucedió que un joven se acercó a Jesús y le preguntó: —Maestro, ¿qué es lo bueno que debo hacer para obtener la vida eterna? —¿Por qué me preguntas sobre lo que es bueno? —respondió Jesús—. Solamente hay uno que es bueno. Si quieres entrar en la vida, obedece los mandamientos. —¿Cuáles? —preguntó el joven. Contestó Jesús: —"No mates, no cometas adulterio, no robes, no presentes falso testimonio, honra a tu padre y a tu madre" y "ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo". —Todos esos los he cumplido[d] —dijo el joven—. ¿Qué más me falta? Jesús respondió: —Si quieres ser perfecto, anda, vende lo que tienes y dáselo a los pobres, y tendrás tesoro en el cielo. Luego ven y sígueme. Cuando el joven oyó esto, se fue triste porque tenía muchas riquezas. (NVI)

## Anthem

*Release What Holds You Back*  
MHCC Choir

Stephen M. Fearing

## Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Rev. Laurie Anderson

"Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you. There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today. When the Lord your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you. "If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,' and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging

when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.' (NRSVUE)

Cada siete años perdonarás las deudas. Lo harás de la siguiente manera: cada acreedor perdonará a su prójimo el préstamo que le haya hecho. Ya no exigirá a su prójimo o hermano el pago de la deuda, porque se habrá proclamado el año del perdón de las deudas en honor del Señor. Podrás exigirle el pago de sus deudas al extranjero, pero a tu hermano perdonarás cualquier deuda que tenga contigo. Entre ustedes no deberá haber pobres, porque el Señor tu Dios te colmará de bendiciones en la tierra que él mismo te da para que la poseas como herencia. Y así será, siempre y cuando obedezcas al Señor tu Dios y cumplas fielmente todos estos mandamientos que hoy te ordeno. El Señor tu Dios te bendecirá, como lo ha prometido, y tú podrás prestar a muchas naciones, pero no tendrás que pedir prestado de ninguna. Dominarás a muchas naciones, pero ninguna te dominará a ti. Cuando en alguna de las ciudades de la tierra que el Señor tu Dios te da haya algún pobre entre ustedes, no endurezcas tu corazón ni le cierras tu mano. Antes bien, tiéndele la mano y préstale generosamente lo que necesite. No des cabida en tu corazón a la perversa idea de que, por acercarse el año séptimo, año del perdón de las deudas, puedes hacer mala cara y no dar nada a tu compatriota necesitado. De lo contrario, él podrá apelar al Señor contra ti y tú resultarás culpable de pecado. Den con generosidad y háganlo de buena gana; así el Señor tu Dios bendecirá todos tus trabajos y todo lo que emprendas. Gente pobre en esta tierra siempre la habrá; por eso te ordeno que seas generoso con tus hermanos hebreos y con los pobres y necesitados de tu tierra. (NVI)

**Sermon**

"Release"

Rev. Laurie Anderson

## **The Community Is Empowered at the Table**

**Invitation to the Table**

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

**Institution of the Table**

Rev. Laurie Anderson

**Communion Prayer**

Lynne Stokes

**Communion Hymn 419** *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

HOLY MANNA

**Communion**

Please eat the "bread" as it comes to you, recognizing your connection with Christ.

Please hold the "cup" until prompted by the minister. We will drink in unison.

Place empty cups in the receptacle on the left side of the hymnbook rack.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Welcome New Members**

# The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

*Closing Hymn	<i>Shine, Jesus Shine</i> (see insert)	Graham Kendrick
*Benediction		Rev. Laurie Anderson
*Benediction Hymn 433	<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>	DENNIS
Postlude	<i>Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy</i>	arr. Howard Helvey

\*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Prelude: *It is Well with my Soul*, arr. Martha Mier. ©2019 Alfred Publishing Co. (Hymns for Meditation, pg. 2)

Anthem: *Release What Holds You Back*, text by Stephen M. Fearing, 2020. Permission is given for use in congregational worship. ©2020 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)

Closing Hymn: *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, words and music by Graham Kendrick. ©1987 Make Way Music (admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere). All rights reserved. ASCAP

Postlude: *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, arr. Howard Helvey, ©2020 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. (Transformations)

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

## CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

**"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."**

## VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger, and social issues that afflict our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter for details and more.)

## **A new Monday Book Study starts Sept. 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in person or online for a discussion of "The Making of Biblical Womanhood" by Beth Allison Barr. Find Zoom connection info in The Echo newsletter.

## **The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received next Sunday, Oct. 6.**

## **Interpretación en español proporcionada por el Colectivo Comal.**

Si desea usar la interpretación simultánea, consulte al equipo de la mesa de sonido. O use este enlace para unirse al grupo de Whatsapp para escuchar. Por favor, silénciate.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JRxSth4JgjX0shCBm3gGo2>

## **Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings.**

Every Thursday on Zoom – All Church Prayer, 8:30 a.m.

Monday Evening Book Study – September 30, 7:00 p.m. (through Nov. 4)

BreakThrough Task Force –October 2, 16, 30, 7:00 p.m.

Elders Meeting – October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Team – October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – October 13, 12:00 p.m.

## MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Rev. Laurie Anderson  
Senior Minister

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes  
Minister of Church Life

Kathy Corporon  
Coordinator of  
Children's Programs

Jeff Crouse  
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons  
Administrative Assistant

TECH CREW  
DC Ciccone, John Leslie  
James Lackey

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE  
Emily Adams  
Kate Lynch

SEPTEMBER ELDERS  
Lynne Stokes  
Jan Sullivan

SEPTEMBER DEACONS  
Adriana Escalante  
Leisha Celiz, John Nation

Scan this QR code to make a financial  
contribution to Midway Hills Christian Church:



# JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

## **Please pray for these in our church family:**

John Wyatt, Emily Adams, Cathy Parker

## **Please pray for our extended church family concerns:**

Christy Horn's father-in-law, David Horn; Jojo Sessay, Berkner HS senior; Christy Horn's friend Kate Ryer; Frank & Millie Martin's son Carl & daughter-in-law Darryll; Megan Mercer's friends the Walters family; asylum guests past and present

## **Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:**

Jayne & Chris Sparrer

Jeryl Crawford

Elaine Manworren

Peggy Dowdey

David Hammons' father, Don

Robin Swindle

Mary Ann Viola

## **Sympathy:**



## **Let's celebrate with joy:**

- Affordable housing especially for incoming refugees
- Hosting asylum seekers at MHCC
- Our guests/visitors in worship in sanctuary and online

## **Please pray for our city and state:**

- Threat to the work of Annunciation House in El Paso
- Steps that erode our civil rights and safety
- Food scarcity

## **Please pray for our nation and world:**

- 2024 Election
- All affected by upheaval in Venezuela from their recent election
- Peace for Israel and Palestine – cease fire
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine
- People in Louisiana, Mississippi, et al in the path of hurricane Francine and all who are suffering from climate disasters worldwide.
- All who need mental health services.
- End gun violence, those impacted by mass shootings.

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

## **Sunday**

**September 29**

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Class
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

## **Monday**

**September 30**

- 7:00 p.m. Monday Evening Book Study, in person or online via Zoom

## **Tuesday**

**October 1**

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 11:30 a.m. First Tuesday Ladies' Lunch Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

## **Wednesday**

**October 2**

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study Group (until 11:30) conference room
- 2:00 p.m. Dallas Council of Garden Clubs (until 5:00) community hall
- 7:00 p.m. BreathThrough Task Force

## **Thursday**

**October 3**

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer (until 9:00) online via Zoom
- 9:00 a.m. Dallas Council of Garden Clubs (until 4:00) community hall
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG, community hall

## **Saturday**

**October 5**

- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG Birthdays, community hall

## **Sunday**

**October 6**

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Class
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 1:00 p.m. AA-PPG Group Inventory Meeting (until 3:30) community hall

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Midway Hills Christian Church · 11001 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229  
www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841

