



Sunday, Nov 19, 2023

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship Brett Hurst

Songs of Praise
Open the Eyes / Ancient of Days / All Creatures of Our God and King

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Beth Case

Song of Response *Gratitude*

Moment of Prayer Brett Hurst

Song of Preparation *Holy Forever*

Message **Joy on the Journey: [Philippians 2:12-30](#)** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Kathryn White

9:30 SERVICE

Meet and Greet (In person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Sally Henien

Songs of Praise *This Is Our God / Holy Forever*

Moment of Confession Jamie Haskins Prince

Songs of Praise *All Creatures of Our God and King / O Praise the Name*

Message **Joy on the Journey: [Philippians 2:12-30](#)** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Gratitude*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Dan Aikins

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Michael Middleton, Meliza Gómez, and Almir Diaz, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Let Us Give Thanks* arr. Sprunger/White

Welcome and Call to Worship Amanda Grace Morris

Choral Introit *What Shall I Render?* Allen Pote (b. 1945)/arr. White

*Hymn of Praise *Now Thank We All Our God*
#555 Vs. 1, 3 | NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Amanda Grace Morris

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

Anthem *Psalm of Praise and Thanksgiving* Mary McDonald (b. 1956)/arr. White

Gratitude Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Preparation *God of Majesty and Glory* James Biery (b. 1956)

Message **Joy on the Journey: [Philippians 2:12-30](#)** Alf Halvorson

*Hymn of Response *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*
#551 Vs. 1, 4 | ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Postlude *Two Ayres from Courtly Masquing Ayres* John Adson (1587-1640)

Musicians at 11:15: John Parker, Rich Harris, trumpet; Deborah Harvey, French horn; Rick White, trombone; Steve Needham, tuba; Julio Sanchez, timpani; Beth Case, piano; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at events.mdpc.org.



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Happening Now through Dec 3

We have two ways you can bless a child this Christmas! Participate in Christmas for Kids (benefitting Small Steps Nurturing Center) or Toy Train (benefitting FORGE for families). Learn more: cfk.mdpc.org



Fri, Nov 24

Be part of the transformation of Black Friday, a national shopping phenomenon, into Bless Friday, a spirit-filled service day! Learn more about the many opportunities to serve at blessfriday.mdpc.org.



Opens Sun, Nov 26

Give the gift of hope for Christmas this year when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones! Learn which partners you can support this year and how it works at missionmarket.mdpc.org.



Dec 1-25 • East Hallway near the Office

All ages are invited to explore devotionals and Scripture-based activities designed to deepen our sense of wonder and our Joy on the Journey to Christmas Day.



Sun, Dec 3 • 3:30-5:30pm

Bring your whole family to enjoy a petting zoo, inflatables, cookie decorating, games, crafts, and more! The Festival is free and all are invited. Please bring cans of mixed veg or fruit cocktail to support our food pantry.



Sun, Dec 3 • 6-7:30pm

With a 32-piece orchestra, the Sanctuary Choir performs *Magnificat* by Taylor Scott Davis, as well as popular carols with the congregation. Free admission and childcare. Learn more at concerts.mdpc.org.



Tue, Dec 5 • 9:30am or 6:30pm

Join us for the Women's Christmas Coffee in the Parlor or, new this year, an offsite Christmas Happy Hour! Learn more and RSVP for Happy Hour (no need to RSVP for the Coffee) at coffee.mdpc.org.



Thu, Dec 7 • 6pm • Sanctuary Courtyard

NOTE: The recent Rooted newsletter listed the incorrect date. This is an evening carved out of the Christmas season for the merry...and the "not so merry." Learn more at blue.mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Nov 12, 2023

2023 Annual Budget	\$ 13,175,787
Income to Date	\$ 8,995,662
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,180,125

Births and Deaths

Luke Simon Aboorvanathan was born on Oct 17 to Raphael & Ruth Aboorvanathan.

Bob Chapman passed away on Oct 30.

Sammy Booher passed away on Oct 28.

John Simmons passed away on Oct 22.

Frank Harrison Richardson passed away on Oct 7.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Joy on the Journey • [Philippians 2:12-30 \(NRSV\)](#)

This is the 7th in our fall series on Paul's Epistle to the Church at Philippi, and the third message from chapter two of that letter, focusing on Joy through Service.

These last several verses in the chapter are how the “rubber meets the road” for Paul regarding Joy in Serving and is just what we need to hear going into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These are often challenging times for members of imperfect families and for individuals who have lost important people or relationships in their lives. The holidays expose our loneliness, our broken relationships, our unrealistic expectations for events and festivities—and also the opportunity for God to work in and through us during this difficult and yet beautiful season of the year.

1. What are your plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are they what you hoped, or do they reveal the expectations of others, aches and losses, anxieties and fears, and perhaps even your “not-fully-formed” yearnings and hopes?
2. Read Phil. 2:12-30, remembering the profound words that come immediately before, the end of our passage from last week. What do verse 12-13 say about God's providence and our freedom? According to Paul, how do our work and God's work intertwine?
3. In verses 14-18, what practical “down and dirty” advice does Paul give to believers so that even if there is death in his future, he can rejoice, and his friends can rejoice?
4. In verses 19-24, Paul lauds his junior colleague, Timothy. How does he describe Timothy? Do you know anyone like Timothy in your circle of friends and acquaintances? Do you possess any of those Timothy-like qualities? What would it have felt like for the church in Philippi to know that Paul intended to send Timothy to them?
5. In verses 25-30, Paul tells the Philippians he is sending Epaphroditus back to them. I talked quite a bit in my message about the unique challenge Paul had to help this church welcome back someone who hadn't finished the job and perhaps would be perceived as a failure. How does Paul help Epaphroditus be able to go “home”?
6. Who are Timothys and Epaphrodituses in your life that over the holidays you might be able to honor or encourage with a word or action? Do you believe that you might find joy through serving in this way? The only way to find out is to try; to put Paul and Jesus' prescriptions into practice. Tell your small group your initial thoughts and plans, then pray for each other's upcoming efforts and commit to reporting back about how things went as a form of accountability with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Happy Thanksgiving!