



Sun, Nov 26, 2023

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Songs of Praise	<i>Forever (Give Thanks) / Gratitude</i>	
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>Blessed Be Your Name</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Offering	<i>This Is How I Thank the Lord / Goodness of God</i>	
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 3:1-11	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>In Christ Alone</i>	
Benediction		Alf Halvorson

9:30 SERVICE

Meet and Greet (In person / Online)		Michael Middleton / Leigh McLeroy
Songs of Praise	<i>Take You at Your Word / A Thousand Hallelujahs</i>	
Moment of Confession		Leigh McLeroy
Songs of Worship	<i>Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood / Gratitude</i>	
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 3:1-11	Alf Halvorson
Offering	<i>This Is How I Thank the Lord / Goodness of God</i>	
Moment of Prayer and Connection		Leigh McLeroy
Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Andante Religioso</i> <i>Prelude in F</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Christyn Knoop
Choral Introit	<i>Behold Now, Praise the Lord</i>	Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i>	#361 Vs. 1, 2, 5 FOUNDATION
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Leigh McLeroy
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
Anthem	<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i>	Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)
Prayer with The Lord's Prayer		Christyn Knoop
Offering	<i>O Light of Life</i>	Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 3:1-11	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>We Gather Together</i>	#559 Vs. 1, 2, 3 KREMSEK
Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>March</i>	Louis Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

Musicians at 11:15: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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give.mdpc.org



Opens Today!

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 child-care. 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.



Happening Now through Dec 3

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



\$9/dedication • Order by Dec 15

The poinsettias adorning the chancel may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. To order and make your dedication, visit flowers.mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Nov 19, 2023

2023 Annual Budget	\$ 13,175,787
Income to Date	\$ 9,619,968
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 3,555,819

Births and Deaths

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

Sammy Booher passed away on Oct 28.

Frank Harrison Richardson passed away on Oct 7.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Joy on the Journey • [Philippians 3:1-11 \(NRSV\)](#)

This is the eighth in our Fall Sermon Series on Paul's Letter to the Church at Philippi. If chapter one focused on *Joy through Suffering* and chapter two emphasized *Joy in Serving*, Paul in chapter three attempts to make the case that there is *Joy in Believing/Knowing/Understanding*.

1. What is an example of something you didn't know or believe or understand, that when the "light bulb went on" for you, it made all the difference in the world? Give an example from science and history and human nature (psychology) and faith.
2. Read Phil. 3:1-11. What new thing does Paul come to believe that changes his mind regarding his previous life and work?
3. In verses 2-3, Paul warns about dangerous people. If you have read the Letter to the Galatians, Paul talks about people who argued that it was Jesus plus the law or Jesus plus physical circumcision or Jesus plus whatever. Paul argues there that this is "subtraction by addition." In other words, the main thing gets diluted or polluted when it is coupled with something that has been overcome because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Why is circumcision of the heart more important to Paul than circumcision of the body? Read Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Romans 8:4, 9-10.
4. In verses 4-6, what things used to be those that Paul valued most and that he thought caused his salvation? What are parallels for us today in the form of works righteousness?
5. From verses 7-11, what is now Paul's primary source of salvation? St. Augustine wrote, "You stand before God as if you were Christ, because Christ stood before God as if He were you." How would you explain that to a friend or your child or grandchild or parent/grandparent? Maybe Romans 3:23-26, Romans 6:23, and Hebrews 9:11-15 might help, too.
6. What if you thought verses 10-11 were a prayer to God from you? What would you be praying for in the present and future? And how might looking at your faith this way influence how you live your life in the present?