

NEW YEAR IN THE VIEW you



Sunday, Feb 4, 2024

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>All Creatures of Our God & King / Holy Forever</i>	
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>I've Witnessed It / Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
Message	New Year, New You (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40)	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>As the Deer</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship		Dan Aikins
Scouts Moment		Rachel Poysky & Ronald Wardell
EAGLE SCOUTS:		
Evan Danek	James Howard	Cameron Schmidt
Owen Duggan	Thomas Howard	Robert Steveken
Adam Easley	Ramin Matini	Andrew Wright
John Going, Jr.	John Miranda	
Auden Griffen	Maxwell Muecke	
PRAY PROGRAM, GOD & CHURCH:	Charlie Zoch	
PRAY PROGRAM, GOD & LIFE:	Elija Kruppa, Colin Soo	
SCOUTMASTER:	Tom Cain	
PRAY PROGRAM LEADERS:	Twyla Shea, John Miranda, and Alex Berry	
Songs of Praise	<i>Praise / Holy Forever</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Dan Aikins
Songs of Worship	<i>Good Plans / Doxology</i>	
Message	New Year, New You (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40)	Alf Halvorson
Offertory	<i>I've Witnessed It / Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
Moment of Prayer and Connection		Rachel Poysky

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Pièce Héroïque</i>	César Franck (1822-1890)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Awake, My Heart</i>	Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	#379 Vs. 1, 3 SOLID ROCK
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
Anthem	<i>Ain't Got Time to Die</i>	Hall Johnson (1888-1970)
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>Let the People Praise Thee, O God</i>	William Mathias (1934-1992)
Message	New Year, New You (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40)	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Lord, Speak to Me, that I May Speak</i>	#426 Vs. 1, 5 CANONBURY
Postlude	<i>Grand Chorus in D</i>	Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Musicians at 11:15: Jason Amos, soloist; Priscilla Salisbury, Riley Vagis, Jason Amos, Christopher Auchter, quartet; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Sun, Feb 4 • 11am-1:30pm

Join your MDPC family in Fellowship Hall for **All-Church Lunch** on the first Sunday of each month! To see the menu and pricing, visit acl.mdpc.org.



Tuesdays, Feb 6-27 • 7-8am

The abundant life satisfies in a way that nothing else can. David Baay and Drew Tingleaf walk us through a four-part special Men's Life series: ml.mdpc.org



Recruiting Now!

Get to know our ministry partners and make an impact on the Kingdom! Just one monthly meeting, Mar-Oct, and a few site visits. Learn more: outreach.mdpc.org.



Fri-Sun, Feb 9-11 • Iron Horse Ranch

Connection, gourmet food, and a chance to rest in the presence of God with others. Last year's retreat sold out - reserve your spot today! getaway.mdpc.org



Sun, Feb 11 • 6pm

BPC will celebrate their 20-year Anniversary, and all are invited! Pastor Alf will be preaching in English, and a celebration reception will follow.



Wed, Feb 7 • 6pm • Chapel

Join us for a captivating evening of artistry! Experience a free oil painting demonstration by acclaimed American artist, Kevin Beilfuss. demo.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

The New City Catechism

Week 5

Question: What else did God create?

Answer: God created all things by His powerful Word, and all His creation was very good; everything flourished under His loving rule.

For Kids: God created all things and all His creation was very good.

Scripture: Genesis 1:31 NRSV

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org



Registration Open Now

Get to know your MDPC family while helping some of our local ministry partners! Mark your calendar and check out what we're doing in 2024: citic.mdpc.org



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.

Births and Deaths

Fred Whitty passed away Jan 25, 2024.

Joe McMillan passed away Jan 11, 2024.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

New Year / New You Stories • [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40](#)

This is the fourth in our five-week series in the new year on texts that help us ponder and produce transformation in our lives and world. Of course, it is God through the Spirit who transforms us, but we can cooperate with or hinder God's plans in the short term. Today's text deals with the incredibly important but complex and nuanced issue of evil and suffering. How might we approach this subject? Whose fault is it? And how is it overcome in the end? Why can we be confident that it does not get the last word?

Paul in Ephesians 6:11-12 writes, *"Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* How does Jesus, like Paul, guide us on this issue?

1. When, if ever, have you encountered something that seemed not just bad or wrong, but evil? When have you seen or felt "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"?
2. Read Matt. 13:24-43. Or if you have limited time, focus on Matt. 13:24-30, 36-40. What is the cause of evil? Is it God or something/someone else?
3. There are weeds, according to Jesus. We would rather not have to deal with them. If we can remove them without damaging the wheat, great—go ahead. But Jesus is suggesting that sometimes, maybe often, the weeds and wheat are so intertwined to remove the weeds would ruin the wheat. Ponder some examples in your life and wider world where that is true.
4. Jesus seems to suggest that in the present day and in our present world, we will have to deal with, put up with, realize that all evil will not be eradicated until the final harvest. Why is that such a bitter pill to swallow? Does that mean that Jesus does not care or has no power to overcome evil? Shouldn't we and God be committed to getting rid of weeds? How do the two parables in Matt. 13:31-33 suggest that God is at work? What shape does that work take? Why is it different from the examples of naked power or cold-blooded revenge that the world offers? How can the bloody cross, undeserved sacrifice, and other-centered sacrificial love by Christ and his followers be powerful weapons (mustard seeds and yeast)? How do these behind-the-scenes and seemingly insignificant items/actions (seeds and leaven) end up winning the day? How does God's grace, presence, and aid somehow reverse the fall and work for good in the midst of the bad?
5. Why does your joining Christ in not giving in to evil (the weeds) and nurturing the good (wheat) give life meaning and purpose instead of despair and defeatism? Where might you need to be more sensitive when dealing with evil to make sure you don't ruin the wheat? And where do you need to have hope that by nurturing the good (wheat), it will leaven the whole loaf? Remember that God does not leave us to pick up the pieces in the wake of the devastation of evil alone. He sends His Son into the middle of a broken and rebellious world, to live and die, so we know God understands and joins our pain, evil is undone because of the sinless sacrifice of Christ, and the Kingdom of God is breaking in even now.
6. Since the topic of evil is so massive and can't be fully covered in any one text or sermon, one relatively short book (153 pages) by Thomas G. Long entitled, *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith*, might help you with a fuller discussion of the Book of Job and our passage for today. Pray for each other in how to deal with the weeds in your life and world.