



Sunday, Feb 18, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Songs of Praise	<i>Your Grace Is Enough / Tis So Sweet</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Laurien Hook
Song of Response	<i>Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Song of Preparation	<i>Here for You</i>	
Message	Watch Over My Lips <u>Psalm 19:12-14 & Song of Solomon 2:15</u>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Michael Middleton / Sally Henien
Songs of Praise	<i>Here for You / Cornerstone</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Sally Henien
Songs of Worship	<i>Christ Our Hope in Life and Death / I've Witnessed It</i>	
Message	Watch Over My Lips <u>Psalm 19:12-14 & Song of Solomon 2:15</u>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	
Moment of Prayer and Connection		Miah Collins

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Chaconne</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Exultate Jubilate (Make My Life a Song)</i>	Helen Kemp (1918-2015)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>	#466 Vs. 1, 3 AZMON
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith from the New City Catechism, Question 1		Beth Case
Anthem	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem	<i>Come to Aid Your Servant (from Te Deum)</i>	Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)
Message	Watch Over My Lips <u>Psalm 19:12-14 & Song of Solomon 2:15</u>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Lord, Speak to Me</i>	Vs. 1, 3 CANONBURY
Postlude	<i>Fugue in G Minor</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude

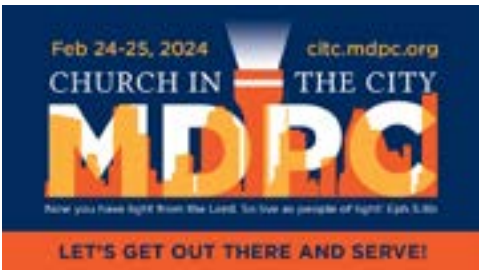
Musicians at 11:15: Children's Choir, Steffanie Dean, director; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Priscilla Salisbury; soloist; Kathryn White, organ/piano

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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Sunday, Mar 3 • 12:30pm

MDPC leadership will conduct a business meeting in Fellowship Hall to review the state of the church. Lunch will be available. Save the date; more information to follow.



Mon-Thu, Mar 25-28 • Chapel

Whether you are five or eighty-five, you are guaranteed to enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at tsw.mdpc.org.



Thu, Feb 29 • 7pm • Sanctuary

Pianist Ryan Fogg performs music by Debussy and Ravel, including duets with organist Kathryn White. concerts.mdpc.org



Wednesdays, Feb 28-Apr 3 • 7-8pm

A six-week survey of six key theological doctrines or truths and why they matter deeply to our faith, led by our Adult Discipleship team. Details: tbs.mdpc.org



Mon-Thu, Mar 25-31 • Parlor

As you interact with Scripture and other tactical elements, you will experience different ways to engage prayerfully with God. Details at silentword.mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

The New City Catechism

Week 7

Question: What does the law of God require?

Answer: Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

For Kids: That we love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Scripture: [Matthew 22:37-40 NRSV](https://bible.com/1/22/matthew/22/37-40)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org



Thu, Feb 29 • 4:30-11pm

Calling all Young Adults (18-35) to join us at the Houston Rodeo for food, fun, and the for KING + COUNTRY concert! Details and sign-up at ya.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

John McGowan passed away Feb 3, 2024.
Fred Whitty passed away Jan 25, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

The Vines that Choke Out Life: Watch Over My Lips

[Psalm 19:12-14 & Song of Solomon 2:15](#)

This is the second in our Lenten Sermon Series on littler, seemingly under-emphasized sins that can cause big problems in our lives. On Ash Wednesday, I talked from Song of Solomon 1:6 on the idea that "...they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept." That often we project competence and saintliness in public, but our own private gardens and homes and lives are sometimes a mess. And I shared about vines in the gully/bayou behind my house that had overrun and overwhelmed some trees and killed them. I must regularly take a lopper and cut them down near the roots, to remove them from their source of nutrients. And that sometimes they climb a tree and then transfer to another tree by the branches and the wind somehow. I have had to put up my large ladder, fully extended, and climb up to stop the choking vines higher up the trees, too. Lent is the time to focus on our own sins, those things, big and small, that sent Christ to the Cross for our salvation; and to free us for a future with hope through the Spirit's help.

1. If visitors at your house were to look in your dresser drawers, the medicine cabinet, under the rugs, or behind the attic door, what would they find? Would you be pleased or embarrassed?
2. Read Song of Solomon 2:15. What are some of the little foxes that seek to ruin your vineyard right now? Name these seemingly smaller sins that are present in your life. Why do we avoid them? Why are they so hard to address or remove?
3. Read Psalm 19:12-14. Verse 14 is often used by pastors as a prayer before they preach. How is it also a good prayer for all people, especially followers of Jesus?
4. Read the words of Jesus in Matt. 12:36-37, 5:37, and 5:22. Why is the tongue such a powerful weapon for good and evil? There aren't many sermons on how we might sin with our words. Why not, do you think? If you were to preach a sermon on the danger of words, what would you say? What examples do you have where words have wounded or even killed?
5. Read James 1-12. What advice and warning does Jesus' brother give to all of us who speak/teach/advise/share? What is he trying to say in verse 11-12, do you think? How can our source for our words be fresh water, not salt or brackish water?
6. Finally, read Ecclesiastes 12:11. What is a goad? The Message paraphrase puts this verse this way: "The words of the wise prod us to live well. They're like nails hammered home, holding life together. They are given by God, the one Shepherd." How might you/we specialize in these kinds of words that encourage, build up, guide, direct, and provide hope? How does Jesus, the Word made flesh, live out and offer these words of life to us in His life, death, and resurrection?