



Sunday, March 17, 2024 Rev. Dr. Rachel Poysky preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Clay Brown

Songs of Praise *Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord / My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown

Song of Response *Old Rugged Cross*

Moment of Prayer Clay Brown

Song of Preparation *Who You Say I Am*

Message **Stopping Halfway ([Luke 9:57-62 NIV](#))** Rachel Poysky

Songs of Response *Take My Life*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

Opening Song *Cornerstone*

Meet & Greet Meliza Gómez

Songs of Praise *I Believe / Who You Say I Am*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Dan Aikins

Song of Worship *Oh but God*

Message **Stopping Halfway ([Luke 9:57-62 NIV](#))** Rachel Poysky

Song of Response *Take My Life*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Dan Aikins

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Tim Hughes, violin; Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes *Prayer at Notre Dame and Toccata from Suite Gothique* Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Welcome & Call to Worship Christyn Knoop

Choral Introit *Ah, Holy Jesus* arr. Daniel Ficarri (b. 1996)

*Hymn of Praise *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Vs. 1, 2, 4 | ASSAM

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Christyn Knoop

*Affirmation of Faith from the United Church of Canada

Congregational Response *The Glori Patri* Hymn #579

Anthem *Mercy* Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Moment of Prayer Christyn Knoop

Anthem of Preparation *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

Message **Stopping Halfway ([Luke 9:57-62 NIV](#))** Rachel Poysky

*Hymn of Response *Take My Life* #381 Vs. 1, 5 | HENDON

Postlude *March of the Priests* W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

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

Order Easter Lilies by Palm Sun, Mar 24

Dedicate Easter Lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones. Dedications may be purchased online at flowers.mdpc.org or in person at the Front Office.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online

give.mdpc.org



Maundy Thursday • Mar 28 • 7pm

With communion

Good Friday • Mar 29 • Noon

Easter • Mar 31 • 7, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15am

More at easter.mdpc.org.



Sat, Mar 30 • 10am-Noon

Tour our Jerusalem village of booths telling the story of Easter! Learn through activities and interaction. Then fast-forward 2,000 years with a stop at the egg hunt.



Wed-Sat, Apr 17-20

Join Outreach Ministries as we visit two mission partners serving in Mexico: Faith Ministry and Berea Bible Institute. Learn more and register: mexico.mdpc.org



YOUTH MISSION TRIP LEADER SPOTLIGHT: PRESTON CUNNINGHAM

Why do you lead on the middle school mission trip to San Antonio (SATX)?

I have enjoyed teaching and encouraging the middle school students to believe in themselves and learn new skills while serving others. We put a lot of trust in the team to help create a secure home for the families we serve. I can see the

kids demonstrate pride in the work they do every day to serve the Lord while reconstructing a roof for a family in need.

What has been the most impactful thing about leading on SATX?

I have enjoyed hearing high school kids over the years mention the SATX as a pivotal experience in their faith journey. I believe the act of serving others humbles young believers and encourages them to further explore their own faith journeys.

Why should others lead on SATX?

The SATX mission trips allows the middle school kids to be entrusted with a significant responsibility of restoring someone's home. This work can only be accomplished by working hard every day as a team. I have watched many youth develop leadership skills and deepen their faith while serving others.

Ready to get in the game for Jesus? Be a Youth Mission Trip leader!

Contact Mitchell to learn more: mkearney@mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Mar 10, 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2024 Annual Budget | \$ 13,723,677 |
| Income to Date | \$ 2,450,927 |
| Needed to Meet Budget | \$ 11,272,750 |

Births and Deaths

Jim Shatto passed away Feb 24, 2024.

Melba Bates passed away Feb 1, 2024.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



Mon-Thu, Mar 25-28 • Chapel

Whether you are five or eighty-five, 15 minutes in The Spoken Word will enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at tsw.mdpc.org.



Wednesdays, Apr 3-May 22 • 4:30-6pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? Come join others in an 8-week program guided by trained facilitators. Learn more and sign up: grief.mdpc.org



Tue, Apr 2 • 6:30-9pm

At **Alpha Launch Night**, we eat great food and watch an episode on a question of faith. Free food and cash bar at White Elm Brasserie. Learn more at alpha.mdpc.org.

The Vines that Choke Out Life: Stopping Halfway [Luke 9:57-62 NIV](#)

Jesus is moving toward Jerusalem and resolute on getting there. The plans are already in motion for His ultimate act of obedience. On the way to Jerusalem Jesus is painting a full picture of what it means to be His disciple and follow him.

So many things are happening in the first part of Luke chapter 9. Read Luke 9:1-56 and outline all the events. This will give you a context for the verses for today which are Luke 9:57-62.

Jesus has three encounters on the road...

1. During the first encounter, He tells the individual that the cost of discipleship is high and without the comforts of home. He says that the “Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Where are you willing to be uncomfortable to serve God?
2. The second one wants to go and bury his father. We do not know if his father had died yet, but we do know that a funeral was an important family obligation in the Jewish culture. Even the priests were allowed to go and bury their dead. And yet, Jesus told him that he must leave that behind. It was a harsh word from Jesus as He emphasized that the priority above all is following Him. What obligations keep you from fully following Jesus?
3. The third one simply wants to run home for a last hug before he goes to follow Jesus, and again, Jesus says no. There is no time to look back. Going forward with Jesus is the only answer. What things do you feel like you must finish quickly before following Jesus fully? Sometimes insignificant things stop us halfway.

Jesus was calling all these individuals to consistent and complete obedience, without pause and reservation. Read these Scriptures below and reflect on how they call us to a life completely surrendered to Jesus. Galatians 2:20, Matthew 16:25, Luke 9:23-24, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 6:24

Close your time reflecting on the words of the hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be.”

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my will and make it Thine.
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own.
It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne. Amen.*