



Sunday, April 7, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship Clay Brown

Songs of Praise *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High / This Is Our God*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

Songs of Response *Spirit of the Living God / 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

Moment of Prayer

Song of Preparation *Made for More*

Message **UnExpected: The Poor** ([Matthew 5:1-3 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

Opening Song *Spirit of the Living God*

Meet & Greet

Songs of Praise *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High / This Is Our God*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Jamie Prince

Songs of Worship *Made for More / A Thousand Hallelujahs*

Message **UnExpected: The Poor** ([Matthew 5:1-3 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

Offertory *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Laurien Hook

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 *Fantasy in G Major* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome & Call to Worship Amy Delgado

Choral Introit *Christ the Lord Is Risen Again* John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Hymn of Praise #139 *Come, Thou Almighty King* Vs. 1, 2, 4 | ITALIAN HYMN

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

Anthem *O Light of Life* Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Moment of Prayer Amy Delgado

Anthem of Preparation *The Beatitudes* Marilyn & James Biery

Message **UnExpected: The Poor** ([Matthew 5:1-3 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

*Hymn of Response #335 *Though I May Speak* Vs. 1, 3 | O Waly Waly

Postlude *Prelude in A Major* J.S. Bach

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Thu, Apr 11 • 7pm • Chapel

Everyone is called, but the calling might not align with our preferences, passions, or paychecks. Join us for a thought-provoking evening: speakers.mdpc.org



Sun, Apr 7 • 11am-1:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall today for **All-Church Lunch** including a performance by our Children's Choir. To see the menu and pricing, visit acl.mdpc.org.



Sun, Apr 14 • 6pm • Sanctuary

Four choirs and an orchestra present Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* and John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*. Free event. Learn more: concerts.mdpc.org



Fridays, Apr 12-May 3 • 10:30-11:30am

Work on honing your skills and learn strategies to raise your comfort level for playing with the general pickleball public. Sign up at adultrec.mdpc.org.



Thu, Apr 18 • 6:30pm • Chapel

Have you ever felt a call from Jesus to reset your life? Come hear stories from MDPC women as we gather together at The Well. Details and RSVP: thewell.mdpc.org



Wednesdays, May 1-22 • 10am-Noon

For those whose loved one is entering the next stage of dementia, this new offering provides higher-level strategies. Learn more and register: savvy.mdpc.org



Sat, Apr 13 • 3-6pm • BB's

Join MDPC Young Adults (18-35) for a crawfish boil at BB's Tex-Orleans! Plenty of food options if you're not a craw fan. Learn more and RSVP: ya.mdpc.org



3rd Mondays Monthly • 11am

Order from MDPC Café and eat together at reserved tables in Fellowship Hall. No RSVP required. All are welcome, so bring a friend! More at seniors.mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Week 14 Question: Did God create us unable to keep His law?

Answer: No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature, and unable to keep God's law.

Scripture: [Romans 5:12 NRSV](https://romans5:12)

Children's Answer: No, but because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we are all born in sin and guilt, unable to keep God's law.

Financial Update as of Mar 31, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Income to Date	\$ 3,418,905
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 10,304,772

Births and Deaths

Jody Jordan passed away Mar 24, 2024.

Paul Edinger passed away Mar 14, 2024.

David Black passed away Mar 10, 2024.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Unexpected: The Poor • [Matthew 5:1-3 NRSV](#)

This is the first in our post-Easter sermon series on the Beatitudes. In the last part of Matthew chapter four, the text says, *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So, His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to Him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and He cured them. And great crowds followed Him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.”* (Matt. 4:23-25) Why didn't Jesus just stay a miracle worker and healer? Why provide the monumental teaching that became known later as The Sermon on the Mount? Well, perhaps because healing others is reactive more than pro-active. The problem has already caused great damage and distress. But with groundbreaking and foundational teaching, perhaps Jesus believed that He could form disciples, apprentices, that modeled the way of the Kingdom that would bring new life to those who put the message into practice and be life-giving to others as well.

1. Have you ever heard a speech, listened to a message, or put into practice a talk that changed your life? Was it by a parent, friend, professor, or someone else?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-11; but focus especially on the first two verses. Where did Jesus give His famous message? Who is the “them” in verse two? Is it just the disciples, or is the crowd allowed to overhear? See Matt. 7:28-29 for clarification. Does it matter who the audience is? Consider that the disciples are “typical Christians,” the initiated; and that the crowd are “potential disciples.” When have you been the crowd and when have you been a disciple?
3. Read verse 3. Of the nine beatitudes, only verse 3 and verse 10 have the blessing as a present reality. The other blessings are future-oriented. Do you have a guess as to why some blessings might be experienced in the here and now, and why some might require fulfillment in the future? What might that say about your Christian life? Do we experience all the blessings while we go through certain challenges, or is the fruit in some cases only eaten after the fact? Why or why not?
4. I defined the word “blessing” and the phrase “poor in spirit” in my sermon. Did those definitions fit what you expected them to be or surprise you? Clarify and discuss.
5. What would it look like for you to be “poor in spirit”? As I said in my message, how might reading, pondering, praying, and trying to live Psalm 23 this week help you to the blessed life, to living out being “poor in spirit”?