



Sunday, April 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

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**8:30 SERVICE**

Welcome & Call to Worship Marcus Vajdos

Songs of Praise *Forever / All Creatures of Our God and King*

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Brett Hurst

Song of Preparation *In Christ Alone*

Message **UnExpected: The Mourning** ([Matthew 5:4](#)) Alf Halvorson

Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*

Communion Music *Communion*

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**9:45 SERVICE**

Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

Opening Song *In Christ Alone*

Meet & Greet

Songs of Praise *Found in You / All Creatures of Our God and King*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

Song of Worship *Living Hope*

Message **UnExpected: The Mourning** ([Matthew 5:4](#)) Alf Halvorson

Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*

Communion Music *Communion*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Sally Henien

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, bass; Jaime Arroyo, keys;  
Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

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**11:15 SERVICE**

Prelude *Sonata in F* C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

Welcome & Call to Worship Rachel Poysky

Choral Introit *Just As He Said* Valerie Crescenz (b. 1965)

\*Hymn of Praise #276 *Great Is Their Faithfulness* Vs. 1, 3 | FAITHFULNESS

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Christyn Knoop

\*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

Anthem of Preparation *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Roy Ringwald (1910-1995)

Message **UnExpected: The Mourning** ([Matthew 5:4](#)) Alf Halvorson

Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*

Communion Music *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from Requiem* Dan Forrest (b. 1978)  
*Adagio from Choral in A Minor* César Franck (1822-1890)

Postlude *Toccatino* Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

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

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).



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[give.mdpc.org](https://give.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](https://concerts.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](https://thewell.mdpc.org)



**Wednesdays, Apr 14-May 15 • 7pm**

Each week, a different teacher will focus on a specific woman in Scripture and explore her role in God's greater story. For details and childcare: [women.mdpc.org](https://women.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](https://savvy.mdpc.org)



**Sundays • 9:45 or 11:15am • Amphith.**

Come enjoy Biblical teaching with a pastor or staff member with seminary training. No homework, no pre-registration or class roll, but always donut holes!



**Palazzo's Fri PM • MDPC Sat AM**

MDPC Young Adults invites you to wrestle with big life questions at our Houston Retreat. Guest speaker, Doug Meikle, founder of TrueWorks. Register at [ya.mdpc.org](https://ya.mdpc.org).



**Occasional or Every Sunday!**

On any Sunday, we need folks to greet, pass out bulletins, and help tidy up the Sanctuary after services. Consider volunteering at [usher.mdpc.org](https://usher.mdpc.org).



Have you done your Spring cleaning? Bring us your spare LEGOs to support this year's Summer Celebration mission projects! Please package them in plastic bags and drop off at Children's Ministries.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Learn more: [52qs.mdpc.org](https://52qs.mdpc.org)

**Week 15 Question:** Since no one can keep His law, what is its purpose?

**Answer:** That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior. [Romans 3:20 NRSV](https://romans3:20nrsv)

**Children's Answer:** That we may know the holy nature of God, and the sinful nature of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior.

**Financial Update** as of Apr 7, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Income to Date	\$ 3,607,316
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 10,116,361

**Births and Deaths**

Bear Densmore was born April 7, 2024 to **Christina and Paxton Densmore**.

**Larry Biestek** passed away Apr 3, 2024.

**Yvonne Dupuis-Perkins** passed away Mar 25, 2024.

## UnExpected: The Mourning • [Matthew 5:4 NRSV](#)

This is the second in our post-Easter sermon series on the Beatitudes from Matthew's Gospel. I hope last week's message gave the context necessary for our further discussions and set the stage for the next several weeks together. What hit you most about the background I gave in the initial message?

1. Read Matt. 4:23-25. What was Jesus doing before this great sermon? How did the people respond? Where did they come from? **Note:** Use the map at the back of your bible or google the places to see the locations listed in verse 25. What impresses you because of that research?
2. Read Matt. 5:4. How is the second beatitude similar and different from the first?
3. What was your family of origin's attitude toward and approach to mourning? Was it celebrated? Frowned upon? Was there a certain time, place, and appropriate expression of grief? Has your attitude and approach stayed the same during your life or has it adapted? If adapted, how? And why? What does it mean that Jesus not only gives us permission to mourn, but also says it is the right path to be on as a human being and as His follower?
4. In verse 4 of Matthew 5, Jesus is not talking about those who have mourned and are done with the grieving process. No. He is addressing those who are currently mourning. They are the ones who have this blessing. How does that hit you? On Jesus' authority, in deep sadness we are in God's good hands. How have you personally experienced that care, support, buoying up, and comfort from God? Is it the comfort you expected, or did it come in a different form than you anticipated?
5. As a Christian, is it possible that you are part of the comfort that God wants to deliver to one of His precious servants? How might you be there for someone going through grief at this time? They might have experienced the loss of a loved one or perhaps the loss of a dream or goal or innocence or whatever. Pray for names to come to your head and for ways to tangibly support the grieving around you with your heart and hands/feet. Remember, you, at critical times, can be the conduit of God's care.