



Sunday, May 5, 2024

**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Clay Brown preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship Rachel Poysky

Songs of Praise *Rejoice / How Great Thou Art*

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

Song of Response *Jesus Paid It All*

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Songs of Preparation *Worthy of it All / What a Beautiful Name*

Message **UnExpected: The Merciful** ([Matthew 5:7](#)) Clay Brown

Song of Response *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**9:45 SERVICE**

Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Songs of Praise *How Great Thou Art / Praise*

Meet & Greet Meliza Gómez

Songs of Praise *Worthy of It All / What a Beautiful Name* Children's Choir

Moment of Confession & Assurance Hillary McMullen

Songs of Worship *Worthy of It All / What a Beautiful Name*

Message **UnExpected: The Merciful** ([Matthew 5:7](#)) Clay Brown

Song of Response *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Mitchell Kearney

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

**11:15 SERVICE**

Prelude *Sonata No. 8* W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Welcome & Call to Worship Christyn Knoop

Choral Introit *Laudamus Te (We Praise Thee) from Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

\*Hymn of Praise #144 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* Vs. 1, 2 | HYFRYDOL

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

Anthem *Kyrie from Lord Nelson Mass* Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Moment of Prayer Christyn Knoop

Anthem of Preparation *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* Heather Sorenson (b. 1970)

Message **UnExpected: The Merciful** ([Matthew 5:7](#)) Clay Brown

\*Hymn of Response #298 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Vs. 1, 2 | IN BABILONE

Postlude *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts* K. White

Musicians at 11:15: Cassandra Black, Carolena Lara, duet; Su-Jin Cho, Priscilla Salisbury, Riley Vagis, Chris Childress, Antoine Griggs, quintet; Miriam Belyatsky, Mila Neal, violin; Shino Hayashi, cello; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online

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



## May 5-19 • Front Office & Parlor Dropoffs

Let's pack the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry for summer! Visit [fooddrive.mdpc.org](https://fooddrive.mdpc.org) for a convenient Amazon Wish List link, or a grocery list to shop locally.



## Sun, May 5 • 11am-1:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall today after services for an **All-Church Lunch** of some Tex-Mex favorites! To see the menu and pricing, visit [acl.mdpc.org](https://acl.mdpc.org).



## Sun, May 19 • 4-7pm • Ball Field

Young adults (18-35), join us to kickoff the summer! We'll have games, food, and lots more. Let us know you're coming! Event RSVP is at [ya.mdpc.org](https://ya.mdpc.org).



## 3 Dates in May, June, July • 10-11:30am

Fun, special mornings for you to spend quality time with just your preschool-er(s)! See all three events and register at [preevents.mdpc.org](https://preevents.mdpc.org).



## Summer Wednesdays

Ladies, check out these sweet summer opportunities to seek Jesus, find friendship, and love others! Learn more and sign up at [slice.mdpc.org](https://slice.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!



## July 8-12 • 9am-12:30pm

You can make a huge impact on a child's walk with Jesus when you volunteer for Summer Celebration VBS! Adults and teens can sign up at [sc.mdpc.org](https://sc.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 19 Question:** Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

**Answer:** Yes, to satisfy His justice, God Himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to Himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

**Scripture:** *Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Isaiah 53:10 NRSV*

## Financial Update as of Apr 28, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Income to Date	\$ 4,441,054
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 9,282,623

## Births and Deaths

**Ray Rose** passed away April 28, 2024.

**CM Blair** passed away March 16, 2023.

More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).

## Unexpected: The Merciful • [Matthew 5:7 NRSV](#)

In our fifth sermon in our post-Easter series on the Beatitudes of Jesus, Clay focuses on “God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (NLT). Showing mercy seems a pretty simple Christian virtue to understand from this week’s Beatitude. Who doesn’t think Christianity is wrapped up in mercy? Then the unspeakable happens, and mercy is the very last thing on our minds. So let’s explore with the sermon how Jesus unfolds the amazing, unexpected blessedness of being merciful.

1. Clay notes that being merciful is at the forefront of what people (Christian and non-Christian alike) expect from Christianity. What biblical passages in Luke and Matthew does he enlist to support this contention?
2. The last Scripture Clay references in his support in question #1 is Matthew 18:21-35. Focus on this passage. What stands out to you about it? Discuss how and why it’s so truthful to human experience and yet so difficult to cope with at the same time.
3. Clay states that most people who say mercy is easy to grant never had to be merciful when the “unspeakable” (Clay’s word for the worst thing) happens. He states further that many, if not most, of us have experienced something we describe as unspeakable. What in your life’s history or present experience makes it so you struggle today with mercy about it? (You don’t have to share the details with anyone if you’d rather not.) Think specifically about how and why that experience(s) makes mercy really hard for you.
4. Despite our strong discomfort with it, Jesus is pretty clear in Matthew 5:7 and throughout the Gospels: there is a major connection between our forgiveness by God and our forgiveness of others. What is the connection, and what does this connection reveal about both God and us?
5. In addition to being merciful being hard to do, Clay also comments that being merciful requires personal courage. How so? What support for this does Clay provide? What step of courage might you be called to take as it relates to showing mercy?
6. Finally, Clay advocates that being merciful is truly life-transforming as we seek to follow Jesus. In what ways does being merciful change us from the people we were/are into the people God desires us to become?
7. What step toward mercy do you need to take today? Toward God? Toward sharing God’s mercy? How is the Holy Spirit working in your mind and heart at this time?