



Sunday, June 2, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

***Songs of Praise** *Song of Hope/Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***Prayer of Confession & Assurance** Leigh McLeroy

Song of Response *Christ Our Hope in Life & Death*

Message **Unshakable Truth: What We Believe and Why** Alf Halvorson
[Rom. 14:7-9 and Rev. 21:1-5](#)

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

Communion Music *Communion Medley*

Benediction Alf Halvorson

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

Song of Praise *Song of Hope/Firm Foundation*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown

Songs of Worship *Christ Our Hope in Life & Death/Living Hope*

Message **Unshakable Truth: What We Believe and Why** Alf Halvorson
[Rom. 14:7-9 and Rev. 21:1-5](#)

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

Communion Music *Communion Medley*

Moment of Connection Miah Collins

Benediction Alf Halvorson

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Welcome & Call to Worship Amy Delgado

Choral Introit *Joined Together as One Body* James Biery (b.1956)

***Hymn of Praise #379** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Vs. 1, 3, 4 | SOLID ROCK

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Christyn Knoop

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Apostles' Creed

Anthem of Preparation *The Holy City* Stephen Adams (1841-1913/arr. Ellen Lorenz)

Message **Unshakable Truth: What We Believe and Why** Alf Halvorson
[Rom. 14:7-9 and Rev. 21:1-5](#)

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

Communion Music *Ave, Verum Corpus (Hail, True Body)* William Byrd (1543-1623)

Organ Solo *Let Us Break Bread Together* Rob Landes

Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude *Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode* arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Musicians at 11:15: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Rob Landes, guest organist

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Sun, Jun 2 • 11am-1:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall this Sunday after services for **All-Church Lunch** with your MDPC family! To see the menu and pricing, visit acl.mdpc.org.



Sun, Jun 9 • 10:00am-2:30pm

Blood donation is a great way to serve while saving lives! Walk-ins (Fellowship Hall) are welcome, but it's a big help if you pre-register: blooddrive.mdpc.org



Sun, Jun 2 • 10:45-11:10am

Join us in the Gathering Room for a casual gathering to get to know MDPC through a conversation with one of our pastors. Details at discover.mdpc.org.



Summer Intensive: Jun 14 pm & 15 am

The 4-week class condensed into one evening and one morning! Not an overnight class. For details and registration, visit newmembers.mdpc.org.



Sundays starting Jun 9 • 6pm

Incoming College Freshmen! You're invited for dinner and conversations to get you ready for this new chapter in your life. Learn more: college.mdpc.org



Wed, Jun 12 • 3pm • Amphitheater

Beat the heat with a FREE movie screening! The first movie up is *Ordinary Angels* (PG). See the full schedule and learn more at movies.mdpc.org.



Opportunities start Wed, Jun 12

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



Thursdays this Summer • 6:30-9pm

Come connect and play some pickup sports. We'll focus on two things: growing spiritually this summer, and having a good time. Dates and loc: college.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Week 23 Question: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer: That because of His divine nature His obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that He would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death. [Acts 2:24 NRSV](https://acts.2:24)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of May 26, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 5,028,069
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 8,695,608

Births and Deaths

Dennis Greer passed away May 12.

Becky Shatto passed away May 22.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Unshakable Truth: What We Believe and Why • [Rom. 14:7-9](#) and [Rev. 21:1-5](#)

This is the first in our 14-week summer series on the major themes of *The New City Catechism*. Throughout the history of the church, Christians have used catechism—collections of questions and answers designed for contemplation and memorization—to teach the core doctrines and ideas of the faith. *The New City Catechism* is a modern-day resource that I invited us to use as a congregation in January. It is based on and adapted from John Calvin's Geneva Catechism, the Westminster Shorter & Larger Catechisms, and especially the Heidelberg Catechism, all documents that Presbyterian and Reformed Christians have used for generations to much benefit. You have seen a question and answer each week in MDPC's Thursday email communication. There are 52 Q's & A's, and the pastors have divided them up into 14 themes to cover this summer. They will help us to understand and live out the Gospel more fully; to identify errors and false beliefs of our time so they can be countered where needed; and they help us to be formed into the people of God more fully. When, if ever, have you seen someone suffer for their faith in Christ? Have you ever experienced trouble or persecution because of your fidelity to Jesus? Why do you think that the Christian faith has grown the most in times of trials and tribulation?

1. Did you grow up in a creedal church or a non-creedal church? Have you ever used a catechism before in your life? When? How was it beneficial for you? Was there anything annoying or unhelpful about the practice? Why do you think Jesus moves to the second person "you" and "your" in verses 11 and 12? Is that comforting to you that Jesus gets that personal and intimate or troubling to you? Why or why not?
2. The two questions I sought to address in this first sermon of the series are question 1 and question 52: *What is our only hope in life and death?* And *what hope does everlasting life hold for us?* On your own, how would you answer those questions without looking at how the catechism answers them?
3. Now read Rom. 14:7-9 and Rev. 21:1-5, the two Scriptures associated with these two questions and answers. How do they give you clues, signposts, guidelines, and even good replies to the questions italicized in #2 above?
4. After I explained the rationale for catechisms and the difference between creedal and non-creedal churches, I shared two stories of how the questions and answers of *The New City Catechism* had made a real, practical, significant, and hope-filled difference in my life and the life of those I was ministering to in our congregation. How did those stories hit you? Did they cause you to want to do anything or put in place this discipline of catechism reading and maybe even memorizing? If so, share with the group to help you be accountable. What can you count on about God, life & death, and eternal life from Questions 1 & 52? Celebrate the clarity and conviction revealed from these short summaries of what our faith affirms.
5. If you want to go deeper during the week between messages, purchase *The New City Catechism Devotional* that has commentary from one ancient and one modern theologian each week for each question or download the free New City Catechism app which has the same material (and also a children's mode) within easy reach of your preferred screen. I look forward to seeing the fruit from this cumulative effort.