



Sun, Aug 4, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Dan Aikins
*Songs of Praise	<i>Rejoice / What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Laurien Hook
Song of Response	<i>Same God</i>	
Message	Unshakable Truth: Prayer <u>Ephesians 3:14-21 NRSV</u>	Alf Halvorson
Communion	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
Communion Music	<i>Remembrance</i>	
Benediction		Alf Halvorson

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Song of Praise	<i>Rejoice</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Sally Henien
Songs of Worship	<i>Desert Song / Same God</i>	
Message	Unshakable Truth: Prayer <u>Ephesians 3:14-21 NRSV</u>	Alf Halvorson
Communion	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
Communion Music	<i>Remembrance</i>	
Moment of Prayer & Connection		Clay Brown
Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Tim Hughes, violin; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders		

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes	<i>Aria</i> <i>Andante Grazioso</i>	Edward MacDowell (1840-1908) Gaston Dethier (1875-1958)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Dan Aikins
Choral Introit	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	arr. George Lynn (1915-1989)
*Hymn of Praise #403	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>	Vs. 1, 2 CONVERSE
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	Kenneth Dake (b.1961)
Message	Unshakable Truth: Prayer <u>Ephesians 3:14-21 NRSV</u>	Alf Halvorson
Communion		
Communion Music	<i>Soul of Christ, Sanctify Me</i> <i>Arioso</i>	Philip Stopford (b. 1977) Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Hornpipe</i>	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Musicians: Kelley Edwards, flute; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



MAM Back to School Drive: Aug 4–Sep 1
Help 5K local students start the year with new uniforms! MDPC is collecting monetary donations to enable families to shop for their children. Give at mambts.mdpc.org.



Join us for All-Church Lunch **Sun, Aug 4** in Fellowship Hall. Food service runs from 11am–1:30pm. Meal Pricing is \$12 for Adults; \$7 for Kids, with family pricing maxed out at \$30. Visit ACL.mdpc.org for menu.



MEN'S NIGHT
Houston Racquet Club
Tue | AUG 6
6–9pm
Cost: \$20 per person
mensnight.mdpc.org

Tue, Aug 6 • 6-9pm • HRC
Join us at the Houston Racquet Club for sports on the big screen, drinks, and Tex-Mex. Invite a friend, you don't want to miss it! RSVP: mensnight.mdpc.org



The Pantry Needs Help! The Houston Food Bank is not able to make their usual deliveries for several weeks, so the food pantry is in desperate need of food items. Find a shopping list at fooddrive.mdpc.org.



MDPC Kids Need Volunteers for Fall Sun mornings and Wed evenings in preK and elementary. Activities/supplies are prepared - you just show up ready to hang out! Contact Keri Mosk: kmosk@mdpc.org



We're looking for Leaders.
Know someone who stands out?

OFFICER NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

MDPC Officer Nominations Are Open
Do you know someone perfect to step into a leadership role at this church? Nominate them today! The nomination process is fast and easy: nominate.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

52

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Week 32 Question: What do justification and sanctification mean?

Answer: Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

[1 Peter 1:12](https://1Peter1:12)

Learn more: 52Os.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of July 28, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$13,723,677
Actual Income to date	\$ 7,115,217
Needed to Meet Budget	\$6,608,460

Births and Deaths

Berkley Anne Nondorf was born to Kristi and Garret Nondorf on July 29.

Reagan Burch passed away July 15.
Brooks Owen passed away March 2.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Unshakable Truth: Prayer • [Ephesians 2:14-21 NRSV](#)

This is the ninth in our summer sermon series on the New City Catechism. Questions 38-41 deal with the important topic of prayer: What is prayer? With what attitude should we pray? What should we pray? And, what is the Lord's Prayer? Those are great questions, but we must not forget that question 37 says, "How does the Holy Spirit help us?" Answer given: "The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; *and He enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.*" Without the Spirit, our prayer life languishes; but with the Holy Spirit, our praying can grow, deepen, further connect us to God and God's word, and help us thrive in the Christian Life.

1. Reflect on your prayer life: When do you pray? How do you normally pray? Why do you typically pray? When have you felt close to God while praying? And what frustrations haunt you about prayer?
2. The New City Catechism suggests that Scripture helps us know how to pray and what to pray. Let's take Eph. 3:14-21 as an example to learn from today. Paul, who is imprisoned in Rome, writes to the believers in Ephesus who are struggling not only with Paul's suffering but with their own. They are fatigued, dispirited, and losing heart, according to Eph. 3:13. Where are you tempted to "lose heart" right now in your life? Read now Paul's prayer to/for them in Eph. 3:14-21. What hits you first in this initial reading?
3. Focus on Eph. 3:14-17a. What are the three main things that Paul prays for regarding his brothers and sisters in Ephesus? Have you ever prayed that basic prayer for yourself or someone else (or some group of people)? Why or why not? Why doesn't Paul just pray that their problems go away?
4. Focus on Eph. 3:17b-19. What does Paul pray for in this second section? How would the "love of God" and the "fullness of God" help them at this challenging, stressful, divided time? How might it help you/us?
5. In this final section of the prayer, Eph. 3:20-21, what or who is the focus? Why is that an important way to end most prayers? How might that put our petitions, our priorities, and God's mission in proper perspective?
6. The word *power* is used three times in this short passage, verses 16, 18, and 20. The world wants power for position, prestige, privilege, and possessions. What does Paul pray that the power of God produces in us? How did Jesus model giving up power or using His power not for Himself but for others and the benefit of our world? How might you follow His lead?