



A Sermon Series on The Book of Esther

Sun, Sep 22, 2024

**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>		Miah Collins
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	<i>Your Grace Is Enough/Because He Lives</i>	
<b>*Prayer of Confession &amp; Assurance</b>		Clay Brown
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Who You Say I Am</i>	
<b>Moment of Prayer</b>		Miah Collins
<b>Song</b>	<i>Trust in God</i>	
<b>Message</b>	<b>Who's in Charge Here?</b> <a href="#">Esther 2:1-18</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Kathryn White

**9:45 SERVICE**

<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>		Meliza Gómez
<b>Opening Song</b>	<i>Your Grace Is Enough</i>	
<b>New Members</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	<i>Who You Say I Am/Your Grace Is Enough</i>	
<b>Moment of Confession &amp; Assurance</b>		Laurien Hook
<b>Songs of Worship</b>	<i>Trust in God</i>	
<b>Message</b>	<b>Who's in Charge Here?</b> <a href="#">Esther 2:1-18</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	
<b>Moment of Prayer &amp; Connection</b>		Amy Delgado

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Children's Choir; Steffanie Dean, conductor; Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

**11:15 SERVICE**

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Andante Sostenuto from Symphony No. 1</i>	Brahms (1833-1897)/arr. White
<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Choral Introit</b>	<i>Immortal, Invisible</i>	arr. Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)
<b>*Hymn of Praise #142</b>	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>	Vs. 1, 2   CORONATION
<b>*Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Christyn Knoop
<b>*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed</b>		
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>My Faith, My Hope</i>	Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Anthem of Preparation</b>	<i>Give Us the Wings of Faith to Rise</i>	Howard Helvey (b. 1968)
<b>Message</b>	<b>Who's in Charge Here?</b> <a href="#">Esther 2:1-18</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>*Hymn of Response #339</b>	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Vs. 1, 3   SLANE
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>March of the Priests</i>	W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Musicians at 11:15: 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)



**Sundays, Sep 22-Oct 27 • 11:15am**

Discover the "Big Story" of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, with MDPC Teacher and Writer-in-Residence Leigh McLeroy. Learn more and register: [bigstory.mdpc.org](https://bigstory.mdpc.org)



**Mondays, Sep 23-Nov 18 • 2-3:30pm**

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? Join others in this 8-week program, guided by a trained facilitator. Learn more and register: [grief.mdpc.org](https://grief.mdpc.org)



**Thu, Sep 26 • 6:30-8pm**

Parents of college students, come for a time to get to know and support one another as you navigate this unique chapter of parenthood. More and RSVP: [college.mdpc.org](https://college.mdpc.org)



**Interest Meeting: Wed, Sep 25 • 6pm**

Join Pastor Alf and Shari on a Reformation Faith Tour, June 3-12! Learn more at an Interest Meeting with Alf and the tour company this Wed, Sep 25 in the Amphitheater.



**Sat-Sun, Oct 5-6 • Noon-Noon**

Learn to grow deeper in married love and life. Taught by Brett and Kelly Hurst at the gorgeous Moody Gardens Resort in Galveston! Sign up: [marriageretreat.mdpc.org](https://marriageretreat.mdpc.org)



**Nov 15-24 • Apply by Oct 15**

Discover how God is at work through Pars Theological Centre, providing theological education and more to the underground Iranian church. Details: [pars.mdpc.org](https://pars.mdpc.org)



**Sun, Sep 29 • 9:45 & 11:15 Services**

Help make our ministry partners feel welcome! The partners we support throughout the year will join us for a morning of worship and prayer.



**Open Pickleball • Tue, 4-7pm • Gym**

MDPC has pickleball courts! Play open pickleball on Tuesdays, or try lessons offered through MDPC REACH. Learn more and sign up at [reach.mdpc.org](https://reach.mdpc.org).

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

52

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Qs

**Week 38 Question:** With what attitude should we pray?  
**Answer:** With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God's will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, He always hears our prayers.

[Psalm 62:8](https://psalm628.org)

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

**Financial Update** as of Sep 15, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 8,765,067
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,958,610

## Who's in Charge Here? • [Esther 2:1-18](#)

This is the second in our six week fall sermon series on the Book of Esther. It was great to have Dave Peterson back last week, with his reminder that we are in a love story, a forgiveness story, and a generosity story because of God's mercy and grace. How does that play out in the story of Esther, where these people of God remain in exile as a fragile minority in a brutal and, at times, evil majority culture that believes and behaves differently from God's will? Covering both chapters 2 & 3 this week is optimistic and probably unrealistic, but I have confidence in your ability to process a lot of material as we move the story forward and ponder how to be faithful in our own time - a time that can be incredibly challenging and dark, too.

1. When has life turned out not the way you had planned? When have you found yourself without much power but up against real evil? Where have you been tempted to hide or compromise your faith and identity to survive or bide your time until the right time to act?
2. Read Esther 2:1-18. What do the words "gathered" and "carried away" and "taken" suggest in verses 3, 6, 8, and 16? Were Esther and Mordecai in charge? Where were they not in charge? And yet, each takes some initiative and uses agency to reveal their character and faith. What do these exiles do in their tough situation? How might it inspire you in yours?
3. Why do you think Mordecai told/commanded Esther not to reveal her people or kindred (or that she was Jewish) in verses 10 and 20? However, why is Mordecai revealed as a Jew in verse 5? Were they the right decisions or the wrong ones?
4. Read Esther 2:19-23. What does this short passage, which bridges us to chapter 3, reveal about the Persian Empire and Mordecai/Esther?
5. Read Esther chapter 3. The main villain of the story, Haman, is introduced and promoted to second in command in the Persian empire by King Ahasuerus. Why do Haman and Mordecai butt heads? Read Ex. 17:8-16; Num. 24:7, 20; Deut. 25:17-19; and 1 Sam. 15:1-9, 10-33. What is the context that reveals a long-standing hatred between these two people groups? What does Haman propose to the king and how does he cunningly deceive the king into approving an edict of destruction?
6. What did I propose in my sermon is the difference between the empires of this world and the kingdom of God? How does the empire operate? What does the empire require? What does God's kingdom provide as an alternative? Have you chosen which kingdom you will serve? How might that play out with decisions/choices this coming month?

# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Introduced in worship on  
Sun, Sep 22, 2024

We are excited to welcome these **11** new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to **MDPC**.

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**Rivson Accioly** is married to Kelma. They have two children, Kamily and Keluson. Rivson enjoys playing soccer and going to the beach.



**Dennis and Melyssa Aragon** have been married for over a year. They have a beautiful baby boy, Raphael, who just turned four months old. They enjoy watching movies, going for walks, and listening to music.



**Peggy Christensen** Peggy was born and raised in upstate New York. After serving in the US Navy, she relocated to Texas for 33 years. After moving back to New York to care for her mother, Peggy returned to Texas in January 2024 and is glad to be living here once again. She's currently a nanny for a 2.5-year-old and a 7-month-old. She enjoys spending time with family and fishing when she gets a chance.



**Ross and Katy Coleman** recently relocated to Houston after 13 years in New Orleans. They have a daughter, Parker (4); a son, Carter (2); and are expecting another son in January. Ross is an engineer with Shell and Katy is an administrator at Ochsner Health in New Orleans. Since moving back to Texas, the Coleman's have enjoyed eating their weight in TexMex, spending more time with their families, and attending Aggie football games together.



**Kyle and Julie Cooper** have three children, Josh (21), Ashley (19), and Shaun (10). Kyle works in the energy industry specializing in natural gas and Julie is a teacher in SBISD. They enjoy spending time with family and friends.



**Hilton and Giuliana Mendes** have been married for 19 years. They have two beautiful children, Ana Beatriz and Filipe Mendes. The Mendes family enjoys traveling and going to church.



**Elizeu Roza** has three children. He enjoys reading and spending time with family.

## Ready for *Your* Next Step at MDPC?

### Discover MDPC

Get to know MDPC! *Discover MDPC* is a casual, 30-minute get-together where MDPC Pastors share about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC.

Sun, Oct 27 • 10:45-11:10am • Sanctuary Lobby

### Explore Our New Member Class!

Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will explore whether becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. New members are introduced to the congregation at a worship service and invited to meet with our Session to be received as MDPC members.

Fri evening & Sat morning, Nov 15 & 16

To see upcoming dates for New Member Classes, visit [discover.mdpc.org](https://discover.mdpc.org).



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11612 Memorial Drive, 77024 | [mdpc.org](https://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710