



Sun, Oct 13, 2024

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Clay Brown

Songs of Praise *Blessed Be Your Name / All Creatures of Our God and King*

***Prayer of Confession & Assurance** Brett Hurst

Song of Response *How Great Is Our God*

Moment of Prayer Clay Brown

Song of Praise *Living Hope*

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** Alf Halvorson
[Esther 8:3-17](#)

Song of Response *You Are My All in All*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Songs of Praise *All Creatures of Our God and King / How Great Is Our God*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Sally Henien

Songs of Worship *Living Hope / Great Are You, Lord*

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** Alf Halvorson
[Esther 8:3-17](#)

Song of Response *You Are My All in All*

Moment of Prayer & Connection Matthew Adair

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Michael Middleton & Vasti Adkins, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes *Give Me Jesus / I Sing the Power* arr. Sterling/Hayes

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing* Lloyd Pfausch (1921-2003)

***Hymn of Praise #447** *Lead On, O King Eternal* Vs. 1, 2 | LANCASHIRE

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Beth Case

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

Anthem *He, Watching Over Israel (from Elijah)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Pastoral Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Preparation *God Is Our Refuge* Allen Pote (b. 1945)

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** Alf Halvorson
[Esther 8:3-17](#)

***Hymn of Response #384** *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go* Vs. 1, 3 | ST. MARGARET

Postlude *Cortege* Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Thu, Oct 17 • 6:30-8pm

Come hear stories from MDPC women as all ages and life stages gather together at The Well! See our speakers for this fall and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.



June 3-12, 2025

See Berlin, Wittenberg, Worms, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich, Geneva, and more on an incredible tour hosted by Pastor Alf. Learn more at reformationtrip.mdpc.org.



Congregational Meeting • Sun, Oct 20

Plan to stick around for a brief rolling congregational meeting after all five services to vote on our next class of MDPC Officers and elect the 2025 Nominating Committee.



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



Meets Monthly (Mon, Oct 14) • 6:30-8pm

Do you sew, knit, write, cross-stitch, paint, or do any creative hobby? Bring whatever you're working on and create with others! Learn more at create.mdpc.org.



Sun, Oct 27 • 10:45-11:15am

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.



Fri-Sun, Nov 1-3 • Caldwell, Texas

Join other young adults (18-45) for a relaxing and refreshing weekend away in the beautiful Texas Hill Country! Details and registration: yaevents.mdpc.org



Job Opening

MDPC is seeking a part-time Special Needs Ministry Coordinator. For more information, visit workhere.mdpc.org or contact Keri Mosk at kmosk@mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

52

?

S

Week 40 Question: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

Answer: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://www.bible.com/bible/266/2-timothy/3/16-17)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Oct 6, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 9,527,910
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,195,767

Births and Deaths

Mack Taylor passed away Oct 1, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Who's in Charge Here? • [Esther 8:3-17](#)

This is the fifth in our six-week fall sermon series on the Book of Esther. Clay did a great job last Sunday covering a lot of material and showing how Esther set the trap that Haman fell into, forcing his demise. We might think the story is over, but there is still an edict in place that unless countered will cause the extermination of God's people. How will that be overcome? What role will Esther and Mordecai play (that we can glean from) in this crucial part of the story?

1. Have you ever made a bold move or took a risk and then thought "all should be well now," but it wasn't? More courageous acts and sustained faithfulness were required? Share a few of those times.
2. Read Esther 8:1-17 and Daniel 6:8. From verses 1-8 and Daniel 6:8, why can't the edict just be cancelled? What does King Ahasuerus allow Esther to do instead?
3. From verses 9-14, what is decided, developed, and implemented? In this second edict, what are God's people allowed to do? How do you feel about this edict? We know from chapters 9-10 that 800 people from Susa and 75,000 people from the rest of the realm will be killed. Did my explanation in the sermon satisfy any doubts or concerns? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Read verses 15-17. How does this contrast with Esther 4:1-3? How is Mordecai like the priests in Ex. 28:1-6? I quoted Ray Stedham to suggest that our joy, even in the face of challenges or defeat, is a huge testimony to the world about our hope in Jesus Christ. What is your joy quotient right now? If it is low, how might you "lean into" the promises of Scripture, the hope of the Gospel, and the Spirit's help now? Because God has decided to save you in 2 Cor. 5:18-21 and John 6:44, how might you live in response with gladness?
5. How might the group pray for you and each other this week? Take time to pray and support each other as you seek to keep making faithful decisions to the very end, like Esther.