



Sun, Dec 1, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus / O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Clay Brown

Offertory *God with Us*

Message **Artful Advent: The News** Alf Halvorson
[Matt. 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38 NRSV](#)

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

Communion Music *Behold*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Songs of Praise *God with Us / Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Leigh McLeroy

Songs of Response *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Moment of Connection Miah Collins

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Message **Artful Advent: The News** Alf Halvorson
[Matt. 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38 NRSV](#)

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

Communion Music *Behold*

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Tim Hughes, violin; Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrot, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Daniel Martinez, keys; Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Three Festive Carols* arr. Hayes/Gaspard

Welcome and Call to Worship Luke Funderburk

Choral Introit *Sleepers Wake (from St. Paul)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

***Hymn of Praise #9** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Vs. 1, 3 | VENI EMMANUEL

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

***Affirmation of Faith** from 1 Cor. 15:1-6 & Col. 1:15-20

Offertory *Mary, Did You Know?* arr. Bruce Greer (b. 1961)

Message **Artful Advent: The News** Alf Halvorson
[Matt. 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38 NRSV](#)

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

Communion Music *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Gilbert Martin (b. 1941)

Postlude *Shepherd's Noel* J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1957)

Musicians at 11:15: Beth Case, piano; Kelley Edwards, flutist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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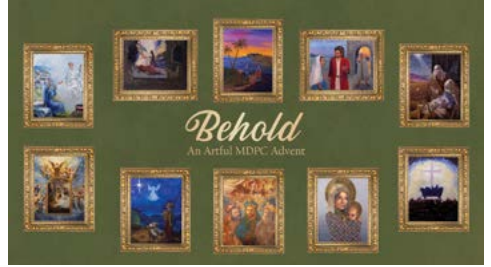
Tue, Dec 3 • 9:30 Coffee, 6:30 HH

Come to one, or come to both! Invite your mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. No need to RSVP for the coffee, but please do so for the happy hour: coffee.mdpc.org



Thu, Dec 5 • 6-7:30pm

Join us in the Sanctuary Courtyard for prayer, carols, and Scripture as we offer you hope, peace, and refreshment this season. Learn more: blue.mdpc.org



Advent Devotionals will be available next Sunday. These beautifully crafted devos, written by Leigh McLeroy, follow along with Pastor Alf's advent series: *Artful Advent*. Details at adventdevo.mdpc.org.



Sun, Dec 8 • 3:30-5:30pm

A free community event! Bring the whole family to enjoy inflatables, games, and so much more. Please bring canned fruit to support our food pantry. kids.mdpc.org



Sun, Dec 8 • 6pm • Sanctuary

Ring in Advent and the Christmas season with Handel's *Messiah*, Puccini's *Gloria*, and congregational carols. Free childcare: concerts.mdpc.org



Through Tue, Dec 24 • The Nook

Explore devotionals and Scripture-based activities designed to deepen our sense of wonder, and our joy on the journey to Christmas Day!



\$9/dedication • Order by Dec 15

The poinsettias adorning the chancel may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. To order and make your dedication, visit flowers.mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Question 49: Where is Christ now?

Answer: Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

Ephesians 1:20-21: God put this power to work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Nov 24, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 11,340,092
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,383,585

An Artful Advent: The News • [Matt. 1:18-25](#) & [Luke 1:26-38](#) NRSV

This is the first in our Advent/Christmas Series on the great texts of this season visually represented by some of our members who are artists. This will help us approach what might be familiar ground from a new vantage point. Sometimes, what we see depends on where we stand. Aristotle said, “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.” May we see other dimensions to this world-changing story of God’s Good News through our various artist’s renderings.

1. Are you more right brain or left brain in the way you engage the world and God? Are you more rational or more artistic? What art forms intrigue or speak to you or for you? Painting, film, sculptures, music (singing or instrumental), etc.?
2. Read Luke 1:26-38 & Matt. 1:18-25. Angels appear to the two key characters, Mary and Joseph. How are these appearances similar and different? Who engages the angel and who does not? Does that strike you as odd or not? Do the messengers of God answer questions, explain themselves, and even give advice or must they simply be obeyed?
3. In the case of Joseph in Matt. 1:18-25, why doesn’t he need to be afraid? And what is Joseph challenged to do? What is so powerful and profound for us about the names to be given to the baby?
4. And in the case of Mary in Luke 1:26-38, what questions does she ask and what answers are given? And what does it take to get her to a positive response?
5. Mary’s prayer in Matt. 1:38 is one of the most amazing responses to a call of God in all of Scripture. What does she say and not say? And how might Mary’s prayer become our prayer this year? What would it take for you to say that kind of prayer to God in your own words and mean it to your toes? What *calling* or *opportunity to trust* or *decision to surrender* in some area of your life is right in front of you as a crossroads this year?
6. I said in my message, part of the Good News is not that we are fully faithful in our waiting, but that God is fully faithful in His coming. As God comes into our world and our lives this Christmas, how can we welcome Him with open arms and join Him in His kingdom work?