



Sun, Dec 15, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing / Holy Forever*

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Brett Hurst

Song of Praise *The First Noel*

Pastoral Prayer Beth Case

Song of Preparation *O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)*

Message **Artful Advent: The Arrival** Alf Halvorson
[Luke 2:1-7 NRSV](#)

Songs of Response *Away in a Manger*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Song of Praise *The First Noel*

Baptisms Alf Halvorson / Beth Case
Collins Campbell Zimmer, daughter of William & Morgan (Trefny) Zimmer
Georgia Grace Zimmer, daughter of William & Morgan (Trefny) Zimmer
Amelia Susan Morris, daughter of Stephen & Amanda Grace Morris
Millie Grace Brock, daughter of Michael & Katharine Brock
Stratton James Dungan, son of Thomas & Leigh Dungan
Warren Lucas Sheets, son of Colton & Holly Sheets
Jameson Asher Breaux, son of James & Natasha Breaux

Songs of Praise *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing / Holy Forever*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Amanda Shockley

Song of Preparation *O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)*

Message **Artful Advent: The Arrival** Alf Halvorson
[Luke 2:1-7 NRSV](#)

Song of Response *Away in a Manger*

Moment of Connection Mitchell Kearney

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

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes *Fantasy on 'Greensleeves'* Brian Henkelmann (b. 1950)
Good Christian Men, Rejoice arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Welcome and Call to Worship Beth Case

***Hymn of Praise** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #5; Vs. 1, 3 | PICARDY

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

***Affirmation of Faith from the United Church of Canada**

Congregational Response *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 2 | GLORIA

Anthem *A Little Child There Is Born* Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Preparation *I Too Shall Walk to Bethlehem* John Rutter (b. 1945)

Message **Artful Advent: The Arrival** Alf Halvorson
[Luke 2:1-7 NRSV](#)

***Hymn of Response** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #44; Vs. 1, 3, 4 | ST. LOUIS

Postlude *Sussex Carol* arr. Raymond Haan (b. 1938)

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



Details: Christmas.mdpc.org

Join us at 2, 4, 5:30, 7, or 8:30pm! All services are in the Sanctuary and include a message from Pastor Alf. All but the family-friendly service at 4pm are candlelight.



\$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.



Open Now in the Sanctuary Lobby

Give the gift of hope when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones! Learn which partners you can support and how it works: missionmarket.mdpc.org



Tue, Jan 7-Mar 4 • 6:30-8pm

The 9-week course uses Biblical wisdom to teach you how to get out of debt, save for the future, and make a lifetime of solid financial decisions. Sign up: fpu.mdpc.org



Thu, Jan 16 • 6:30-8pm • Amphitheater

The series kickoff is *Mind Matters: Calm in the Chaos*, a presentation on how to handle anxiety and the pressures of the new year. See more at hottopics.mdpc.org.



Sat, Jan 18 • 9-11:30am

Speakers and fast-moving breakout sessions offer tools to use right away, and also for better relationships with your kids in the long term! Sign up: dadpal.mdpc.org



Feb 7-9, 2025 • Iron Horse Ranch

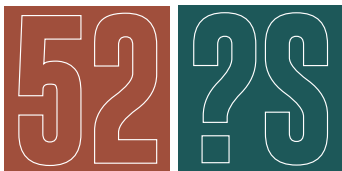
Join MDPC Women's for a weekend of fun, food, and fellowship! Our speaker will be Leigh McLeroy. Learn more and register at women.mdpc.org.



Collecting through Dec 22

Help bring some Christmas cheer to an international seafarer in the Port of Houston this season! Item list and instructions for boxes at seafarers.mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



 The New City Catechism

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Question 51: Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

Answer: Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as He came down to earth physically on our account, and He is now advocating for us in the presence of His Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us His Spirit.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Romans 8:34

Financial Update as of Dec 8, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,719,797
Actual Income to Date	\$ 12,097,501
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 1,622,296

Births and Deaths

Jo Howard passed away Nov 27, 2024.
Agnes Adair passed away Dec 3, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

An Artful Advent: The Arrival • [Luke 2:1-7 NRSV](#)

This is the third in our Advent series on the Christmas story through art. Mary and Joseph have finally arrived in Bethlehem, but even after a difficult and traumatic journey, once they have arrived their challenges are not over. The registration still needs to take place, the delivery of the baby is a major concern, and then what about accommodations? Where will the baby stay if there is no place for them at the inn?

1. When you travel, what kind of "accommodations" do you like to enjoy at your destination? Do you like a hotel, tent, Airbnb, VRBO, timeshare, house, guest bedroom in a family member or friend's place, something else? Describe positive and negative experiences regarding the places you have stayed on your journeys.
2. Read Luke 2:1-7. We looked at verses 1-5 last week, so let's focus on verses 6-7 today. What hits you at first blush as you focus on and react to these two verses?
3. In my sermon, I talked about debate among scholars regarding the meaning of the Greek word *kataluma*. Which description makes the most sense to you, and why? How does that explanation add (or perhaps subtract) from the story for you?
4. I talked extensively about Jonathan Haidt's book, *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. React to the various statistics and challenges Haidt offers to citizens of a technologically advanced society.
5. If the problem in our Scripture is that there was no place for the Holy Family in the inn, how might we/you make room for Jesus in your life, your calendar, your family, and, most importantly, your heart?
6. We all are the innkeepers of our lives. What disciplines are you willing to try and hold each other accountable for this Advent/Christmas season?
7. Are there possible changes to your life in 2025 (New Year resolutions) that you want to consider now? What might God be nudging you toward regarding your phone, technology, social media, etc.? How might those additions or subtractions make room for God and for following His Son, our Savior and Lord, in the coming year?