



# THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

Matthew 2:13-23

Sun, Dec 29, 2024

## 8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Beth Case preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Songs of Praise	<i>Joy to the World / How Great Thou Art</i>	
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Amy Delgado
Song of Response	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	
Pastoral Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Offertory	<i>Emmanuel (God with Us Forever)</i>	
Message	<b>Artful Advent: The Massacre of the Innocents</b> <a href="#">Matthew 2:13-23 NRSV</a>	Beth Case
Songs of Response	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	

## 9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship		
Songs of Praise	<i>Joy to the World / How Great Thou Art</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Leigh McLeroy
Song of Preparation	<i>Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)</i>	
Message	<b>Artful Advent: The Massacre of the Innocents</b> <a href="#">Matthew 2:13-23 NRSV</a>	Beth Case
Songs of Response	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	
Moment of Prayer & Connection		Leigh McLeroy

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Meliza Gómez, worship leader

## 11:15 SERVICE

Preludes	<i>In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)</i> <i>What Child Is This</i>	Franz Liszt (1811-1886) Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	<i>Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light (from Christmas Oratorio)</i>	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
*Hymn of Praise #53	<i>What Child Is This</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 3   GREENSLEEVES
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response #22	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	Vs. 4   REGENT SQUARE
Anthem	<i>The Shepherd's Farewell to the Holy Family</i>	Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)
Pastoral Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Offertory	<i>His Light Still Shines</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
Message	<b>Artful Advent: The Massacre of the Innocents</b> <a href="#">Matthew 2:13-23 NRSV</a>	Beth Case
*Hymn of Response #56	<i>The First Noel</i>	Vs. 1, 3, 5   THE FIRST NOWELL
Postlude	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Musicians at 11:15: Choral Ensemble; Emily Borling, guest organist

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).



**Thu, Jan 2 • 6pm Pickleball, 7 Bible Study**  
College students are invited to join us for *Scripture Under the Stars* on the new MDPC Pickleball Courts! Includes free dinner. RSVP: [yaevents.mdpc.org](https://yaevents.mdpc.org)



**Two Saturdays in Jan (4, 11) or July**  
A free 8-hour series taught over two weeks (9am-1pm each day). Open to dating or engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. Learn more: [mlp.mdpc.org](https://mlp.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](https://fpu.mdpc.org)



**Wednesdays, Jan 15-Mar 5 • 3-4:30pm**  
Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, you are not alone. Join others in an 8-week program guided by trained facilitators. Learn more: [grief.mdpc.org](https://grief.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](https://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](https://dadpal.mdpc.org)



**Thu, Jan 23 • 6:30-8pm • Summit Room**  
All women from the Fuente, Brazilian, and English-speaking congregations are invited to a night of good food, conversation, and prayer! RSVP: [together.mdpc.org](https://together.mdpc.org)



**Sun-Sat, May 4-10 • Honduras**  
Serve alongside fellow MDPC ladies helping communities acquire clean water and experience "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ. [livingwater.mdpc.org](https://livingwater.mdpc.org)

**Financial Update** as of Dec 22, 2024  
2024 Annual Budget \$ 13,719,797  
Actual Income to date \$13,300,988  
Needed to Meet 2024 Budget 418,809

**Births and Deaths**  
Don Lee passed away Dec 21, 2024.  
Bill Lawhon passed away Dec 22, 2024.  
More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).

**An Artful Advent: The Massacre of the Innocents** • [Matthew 2:13-23 NRSV](#)

This is the sixth in our Advent & Christmas Series on the Christmas Story through Art. We will return to the story of the magi next Sunday, but in today's Scripture, the visitors from the East have just departed the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream instructing him to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt because Herod is out to kill the child. Joseph obeys, and the young family is on the move again. Meanwhile, Herod's soldiers raid Bethlehem, killing children two-years old, and younger. What part could this tragedy play in the narrative of Christmas?

**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, convict, and comfort through the Word of God today.

**Share:** Share with the group where you were on 9/11 (2001). Or maybe you weren't yet born when the terrors of that day happened. Either way, mention briefly your experience of learning about that tragedy.

**Read Matthew 2:13-23:**

1. When you hear of a tragedy or untimely loss – even in the present day – which are you more likely to question: a) God's love; b) God's power; c) God's goodness; d) none of the above?
2. Quotes from the Old Testament (**Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15**) are included in Matthew's telling of the birth narrative of Jesus to remind readers that God has brought Israel out of Egypt, and also out of Exile in Babylon. What similarities might there be between the Exodus, the Babylonian Captivity, and the nation of Israel during the Incarnation of Jesus?
3. The word for Nazareth is similar to the Hebrew word *netser*, translated "sprout," "shoot," or "branch." Moreover, in historical context *Nazarene* would have held the connotation of "despised" or "a nobody." Read **Isaiah 11:1-2; 53:2-6**. How does this help us understand Jesus' person, purpose, and plan?
4. When the topic of tragedy arises, do you tend to: a) ignore/deny it; b) prevent it; c) care for those suffering from it; d) allow it to erode your faith; e) discuss it with God; f) none of the above?
5. When Philip Yancey considers theodicy (the discussion of how God - if both good and powerful - could allow the existence of evil), he says: "I don't know why God allows for suffering. All I know is that God is on the side of the sufferer." How have you seen / heard this happen in your life, or the lives of others?
6. Make a comment on the following quote by Henri Nouwen. What stands out to you? "Every time we see someone in pain and we wonder how that person is going to live through it, know that God suffered that pain and is suffering that pain with that person. In a way, the whole of human history is the showing of the depths of God's suffering. From a Christian perspective, history is the unfolding of the intensity and immensity of God's suffering, but also of God's resurrection, because in the midst of all the suffering, you can see signs of hope again and again and again."
7. Compare/contrast Jesus and Herod: In what ways do they use power differently? How might this offer perspective for today?