

Words of Woe

Sun, Mar 16, 2025

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship

Rachel Poysky

Songs of Praise *Ancient of Days / Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Brett Hurst

Song of Response

The Old Rugged Cross

Pastoral Prayer

Rachel Poysky

Song of Preparation

Agnus Dei / Who Else

Message

Words of Woe

Alf Halvorson

[Matt. 23:16-22](#)

Song of Response

All in All

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship

Michael Middleton

Song of Praise *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty / Great Are You, Lord*

Moment of Connection & Assurance

Taylor Coleman

Song of Worship

Agnus Dei / Who Else

Message

Words of Woe

Alf Halvorson

[Matt. 23:16-22](#)

Song of Response

All in All

Moment of Prayer & Connection

Rachel Poysky

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

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes

Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus
Hymn of Promise

arr. Matthew Corl (b. 1965)

arr. Brenda Portman (b. 1985)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Andrew Adair

Choral Introit

Jesus Shall Reign

Carl Nygard (b. 1947)

*Hymn of Praise #142 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Vs. 1, 2, 4 | CORONATION

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Andrew Adair

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response

The Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

Anthem

Ascribe to the Lord

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Moment of Prayer

Andrew Adair

Anthem of Preparation *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

arr. Mark S. Miller (b. 1977)

Message

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[Matt. 23:16-22](#)

*Hymn of Response #441 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

Vs. 1, 2, 5 | ST. THOMAS

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Musicians at 11:15: Sanctuary Choir; Christine Oakes, soloist;
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Mon-Thu, Apr 14-17 • Chapel

Whether you are five or eighty-five, 15 minutes in The Spoken Word will enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at tsw.mdpc.org.



Thu, Mar 27 • 7-9:30pm

Join MDPC Women for a fun and lively night of fellowship and fantastic food as we explore an amazing Southern menu. Details and RSVP: cook.mdpc.org



Sun, Mar 30 • 6pm • Free Admission

One of the 19th century's most enduring oratorios, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, with baritone Michael Vaughn. concerts.mdpc.org

NOTE: Last week's ad incorrectly listed Thursday as the concert day. Corrected date is above.



Thu, Apr 3 • 6:45-8:30pm • Chapel

All college students and young adults are welcome to join us for a musical worship night. Light refreshments before the event in the Chapel. RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org



Order deadline: Palm Sun, Apr 13

Dedicate Easter Lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones. Dedications may be purchased online at flowers.mdpc.org or in person at the Front Office.

Financial Update as of Mar 9, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to date	2,273,891
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	11,929,401



Tue, Mar 18 • 6:30pm

Come eat great food and watch an episode on a question of faith – then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think! Details: alphalaunch.mdpc.org



Sat, Mar 29 • 9-11am

Not sure how to answer your child's big questions? Join us a live program and leave feeling confident and empowered! Details and registration: birds.mdpc.org



Wed, Apr 2-16 • 10am-12pm

This free program will help you define your support network, get your documents in order, determine your next steps, and more. Register: caring.mdpc.org



Sat, May 17-Mon, May 26

YAs, don't miss this opportunity to serve alongside fellow young adults and see how Jesus is coming alive in Hungary! Details and registration: budapest.mdpc.org



Thu, Apr 10 • 6:30-8pm • Parlor/Chapel

Join us as all ages and stages gather to hear the stories from women just like you! Refreshments at 6pm, followed by the program in the Chapel: thewell.mdpc.org

Words of Woe • [Matt. 23:16-22](#)

This is the third in our Lenten series (including Ash Wednesday) on Matthew chapter 23 and Jesus' challenging words there to the scribes and Pharisees. Like a piano teacher who says to a student sitting next to her on the bench, "Woe to them outside playing instead of practicing like you," Jesus wants to talk to His disciples and the crowd about the mistakes of the scribes and Pharisees so that they might learn from other's mistakes and be grow in faithfulness. We ponder their sin so we are aware of what sent Jesus to the cross; and also, so we might repent ourselves.

1. Do you know anyone who is blind physically or only has partial sight? What challenges do they face each day? And how do they overcome those limitations? Can they do it alone?
2. Have you ever been called "blind"? What was your accuser attacking you about, if you can remember? Or have you ever called someone blind? What were you attacking?
3. Read Matt. 23:16-22. What is Jesus' big complaint here about the scribes and Pharisees? Why does He call them blind three times (in vss. 16, 17, and 19)?
4. In my sermon, I tried to explain how "swearing oaths" worked in Jesus' day. What was helpful from that discussion? Was there anything confusing? Discuss as a group.
5. How did my discussion at the beginning of my message about the surgeon who developed cataract surgery and John Calvin's explanation of Jesus (and God's inspired Word) as the lens through which we see ourselves and the world make sense to you? From that discussion, have you had your spiritual cataract surgery? Has it helped you to see 20/20? If not, what roles can friends, our faith community at MDPC, and the Holy Spirit play so we see more clearly going forward? Pray for each other regarding clearer vision, less blind spots, and more depth perception and peripheral vision so we can follow, love, and serve God and the world more effectively.