

Words of Woe

Sun, Mar 23, 2025

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship

Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Everlasting God / Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Leigh McLeroy

Song of Response

To God Be the Glory

Offertory

Same God

Message

Words of Woe

Alf Halvorson

[Matt. 23:23-26](#)

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

Communion Music

Nothing but the Blood / He Has Done Great Things

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship

Michael Middleton

Song of Praise

Who Else

Moment of Connection & Assurance

Hillary McMullen

Song of Response

To God Be the Glory / Glorious Day

Message

Words of Woe

Alf Halvorson

[Matt. 23:23-26](#)

Offertory

Same God

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

Communion Music

Nothing but the Blood / He Has Done Great Things

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

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes

Two Baroque Lenten Preludes:

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

J. Kellner (1705-1772)

In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Beth Case

Choral Introit

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. Benjamin Harlan (b.1956)

*Hymn of Praise #324

Open My Eyes That I May See

Vs. 1, 2, 3 | OPEN MY EYES

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Dan Aikins

*Affirmation of Faith from the Romans 8

Offertory

The Lord Hath Exalted Thee and Woe to Him from Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1844)

Message

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[Matt. 23:23-26](#)

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

Communion Music

Softly and Tenderly

arr. Gilber Martin (b. 1941)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. Garrett Parker

Postlude

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)

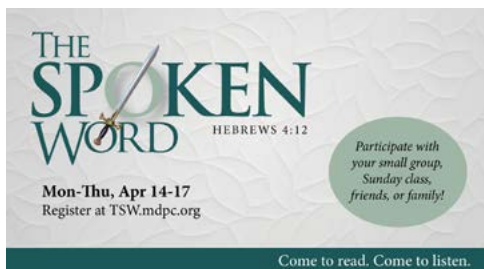
Musicians at 11:15: Sanctuary Choir; Antoine Griggs, Cassandra Black, Megan Berti, soloists;
Charles Hausmann & John-Alan Gouridine, conductors; Kathryn White, organ/piano

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 • 6:30-8pm • Amphitheater

This year's series concludes with *Scams & Identity Theft*, a presentation by Lt. Roy Guinn of the Constable Office. See details at hottopics.mdpc.org.



Sun, Mar 30 • 6pm • Free Admission

MDPC and A&M United Methodist choirs and the Texas Southern University Singers present Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, with baritone Michael Vaughn. concerts.mdpc.org



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 16, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	2,510,146
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	11,693,146



Sat, Mar 29 • 9-11am

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



Sun, Mar 30 after 9:45 Service

Are you a professional wondering about the purpose of your work in God's world? Join us in the courtyard to learn about H-Town Fellows. Learn more: fellows.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



Fri PM, Apr 4 and Sat AM, Apr 5

This class is how you can become an MDPC member or simply learn more about our church and ministries. Evening + morning, no overnight. Details: membership.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

Births and Deaths

Chase Sturdevant passed away March 13.
Ben Hinds passed away March 17.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Words of Woe • [Matt. 23:23-26](#)

This is the third Sunday and the fourth message in our Lenten series, which includes Ash Wednesday. Jesus keeps piling up "woes" against the scribes and Pharisees, hoping the crowd and disciples (and even these religious leaders) will get the message that faithfulness is different than how these expert hypocrites have been talking and walking. Jesus seeks to return all of them to love of God and neighbor as themselves.

1. If someone challenges you repeatedly, how hard is it to "stay open" to their criticism? How is Jesus similar or different from normal critics? What is His goal with these harsh words?
2. Read Matt. 23:23-26. What is your initial reaction regarding woe numbers four and five? What does Jesus seem to be addressing with each charge?
3. Regarding the fourth woe (vss. 23-24), read Lev. 27:30 & 32 for context regarding tithing, and read Micah 6:8 to be reminded of what a short summary of the Law might look like. In fact, Isaiah 1:11-17 covers both the negative and positive pointed out by Jesus in verses 23-24. Why should justice and mercy and faith be more important (consequential) than the tithing of mint, dill, and cumin? From vs. 24, how are the scribes and Pharisees straining out a gnat but swallowing a camel?
4. Regarding the fifth woe (vss. 25-26), there are a lot of reasons from the Old Testament why a vessel could become unclean, but we don't have to focus on the cause of the uncleanness. Jesus seems to focus on where the scribes and Pharisees put their attention, which is on the external matters, not the internal matters of the heart. Why, according to Jesus, is that a wrong approach and foolish?
5. I talked in my sermon about ways that we can address the little but miss the big. In other words, major in minors. Where have you fallen into that trap? How can you repent and turn toward the more valuable things Jesus mentions? I shared a short video about selective attention or inattentional blindness. Where do you fall into that trap of focusing too narrowly on the less important things? Pray for each other in the group regarding these important Lenten correctives.